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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 13th February, at Taiyuanfu, Shansi, the wife of Prof. E. R. LYMAN, of a son.

On the 11th March, at Smith Villas West, Magazine Gap, the wife of P. E. HEERMANN, of a son.

On the 11th March, at 20, Woosung Road, Shanghai, the wife of T. ARTINDALE, of a son.

On the 11th March, at Wanganui, New Zealand, the wife of SEYMEN HANKIN, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 27th February, at St. George's Church, Penang, JAMES ALEXANDER, 4th son of the late Dr. J. IVOR MURRAY, formerly H. M. Colonial Surgeon, Hongkong, to LUCY MAXTON, younger daughter of the late Colonel WILLIAM BARBER, 33rd Madras Infantry, and of Mrs. BARBER, of Adelaide, South Australia.

On the 9th March, at the German Consulate, Shanghai, by Acting Consul-General Bussé, and subsequently at the German Church, by Pastor Boie, PAUL STAVE, of Hamburg, to VICTORIA, daughter of the late GEORGE CLARKE, of Shanghai.

On the 16th March, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, Sergeant WILLIAM JOHN KERR, Hongkong Police, to LILIAN MAUDE, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. JOHN SMITH, of Eye, Suffolk. (Suffolk paper please copy).

On the 17th March, at St. Peter's Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. J. H. France, M.A., assisted by the Rev. T. Wright, B.A., HUGH S. WYNNE, of Gourrock, Scotland, to ANNIE MAUDE, eldest daughter of the late ALFRED PARKER and Mrs. NICHOLLS, Hongkong.

DEATHS.

On the 11th March, at the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, from pneumonia, JULIA WHALEY, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. BROCKMAN, aged 1½ years.

At No 1, Honan Road, Shanghai, MABEL BEATRICE HILL, aged 14 months and 10 days, from pneumonia.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail arrived, per s.s. *Hamburg*, on the 18th inst., and the French Mail of the 19th ult. is expected to arrive, per s.s. *Salazie*, some time to-morrow, the 22nd inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. John Cowen has resigned the editorship of the *China Times*, Tientsin.

It is expected that Prince Arisugawa will be appointed Japanese Imperial representative at the St. Louis Exhibition.

It is authoritatively stated in St. Petersburg that Russia does not consider Corea a belligerent because of her attitude towards Japan.

A St. Petersburg correspondent says that the Baltic Squadron will probably leave in July and attempt to force the North East passage. This is now denied.

British enterprise in Corea is not entirely dead, for the sole agency for the sale of Korean gunseng this year has been acquired by the Chemulpo representative of a London firm for one million yen.

It is reported from Peking that the Chancellor of Peking University has withdrawn all the University funds hitherto deposited in the Russo-Chinese Bank and has transferred the account to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

A Russian Imperial Ukase recalls Admiral Stirk, the Commander of the Russian Pacific fleet, ostensibly on the ground of ill health. On the other hand, the captain of the *Retvisan* has been decorated for repelling the attack of the Japanese destroyers and destroying the fireships on the night of the 24th February.

The State department at Washington is informed from Chefoo that Japanese troops have arrived at Fungwang-cheeg and Taku-shan, thus getting to the rear of the Russians in Corea and threatening their railway communications. The report is received with incredulity by military experts, though the mystery surrounding all movements of the belligerents make everything credible.

At a dinner of the Wisconsin Society in New York last week, a reference by General Wheeler to the Japanese naval success, as indicating Japanese greatness, was received with cheers. Mr. Uchida, the Japanese Consul-General, declared that Japan was struggling for a national existence and only asked for fair play and straight dealing. At the conclusion of the speech, the company rose up and cheered for some minutes. Mr. Pratt, the Assistant Attorney-General, said he hoped, as a private citizen, that Japan would continue as she had begun. Members of Congress who were present and others all spoke in favour of Japan.

According to a Weihaiwei report, H.M.S. *Thetis* has erected a Marconi mast for the London *Times* on the North Point, Weihaiwei, to keep up connection with the steamer *Haimun*, from Chemulpo, and it is hoped to get messages over 140 miles. In return for this concession, all news thus brought is to be given to Weihaiwei twenty-four hours after the messages have been despatched by cable to London. But what about the Japanese objection to outside wireless telegraphy, which may interfere with their own system?

A certain amount of controversy has arisen over the question whether the French cruiser *Pascal* helped the Russians to destroy the s.s. *Sungari* rather than let it fall into the hands of the Japanese at Chemulpo. We see that Mrs. Moore, wife of Bishop Moore, who had gone to Chemulpo on the *Sungari* and was an eye-witness of the naval engagement, said at the conclusion of a description of the affair:—"Only the *Sungari* remains, so recently our home. She sinks all too slowly. A boat puts off to her from the French cruiser, and soon her beautiful upper works are a roaring furnace of flame. All night she burns and glows; and dies with the morning light."

The Shanghai Taotai received on Thursday, the 3rd inst., a dispatch from M. Kleimenow, Russian Consul-General, notifying the former that he had received telegraphic instructions from M. Lessar, Russian Minister at Peking, consenting to the disarming of the *Mandjour*, and that the breech-blocks of the big guns, and ammunition of the cruiser shall be handed over to the Imperial Maritime Customs, to be taken care of during the continuance of the present war. Next day the Russian Consul-General sent another dispatch to Yuan Taotai asking him to see Mr. Hobson, the Shanghai Commissioner of Customs, about naming a day when the latter shall call at the Russian Consulate to settle about the handing over of the breech-blocks, etc., of the *Mandjour*. As for the crew of the cruiser, it is believed that only a few men will be left on board as caretakers, the rest to be paroled that they will not fight in the present war and then probably be sent back to Russia.

In the present war it is not only against the Japanese that the war correspondents are complaining. The correspondents at Newchwang, representing Reuter, the *Times*, the *Daily Mail*, and the *Daily Telegraph*, have addressed a letter of complaint to the American Consul there. The letter is published by the *China Times* of the 9th inst. The correspondents say that they have suffered much interference from Russian officials. McCormick (Reuter), and Greener of the *Times* were "repeatedly arrested without warrant," and Etzel of the *Telegraph* was "threatened with arrest if he persisted in his attempts to obtain information or verify reports." The Russian Civil Administrator there informed the British Consul that only correspondents furnished with Government recommendations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at St. Petersburg would be recognised. The *China Times* regards this as a most extraordinary idea, in view of the fact that most of the correspondents were telegraphically appointed. "It amounts to prohibition, but why is not a straightforward prohibition issued?"

RUSSIAN AND JAPANESE PLANS OF CAMPAIGN.

(Daily Press, 18th March.)

In spite of all reports as to the abandonment or capture of Port Arthur, the Russian fortress on the Liaotung peninsula is holding out; and now, as may be seen from the telegram which we publish to-day, General KUROPATKIN, the Russian Commander-in-Chief, has given orders to Admiral STOESSEL to continue to hold the place. We have a further indication of General KUROPATKIN's intention, for it is stated that he means to defend the line of the Yalu River with 250,000 men, while guarding his railway communications with another 150,000. Whether he has in Manchuria at the present moment these numbers or anything like them it is impossible to say. If he has, he must be experiencing tremendous difficulties in the commissariat department, without which working in good order it is obviously impossible to maintain a force of 400,000 men thousands of miles from their real base. However, if we take his statement as genuine, and not merely as meant to impress the Japanese, we must dismiss as imaginary the remark attributed to the General's *aide-de-camp* by REUTER a few days ago. The latter was reported to have declared that General KUROPATKIN would first of all recall Russian troops from Corea and would not commence operations until May, hoping to "have done with Japan" at the end of July. This bombastic utterance was not given much attention at the time; now it seems probable that it was never made. From what we know of General KUROPATKIN's previous career, the plan of campaign now attributed to him looks far more probable than a policy of retreat. The only point to be settled is whether it is not too late for Russia to hold the line of the Yalu. We know little enough of the Japanese movements on land. Japan has, with the most perfect justification, in spite of the hysterical complaints of disappointed war correspondents, concealed her military operations entirely, so that the disposition of her troops is quite unknown. It is, however, known that her outposts in Corea have reached as far north as the Ching-chin-gang (or Chheng-chen-gang) River, some fifty miles south of the Yalu, and over one hundred and fifty miles from Seoul. On the other side of the Yalu, the Japanese were reported some days ago to have got to Feng-hwang-cheng, which is about one hundred miles from Moukden and is right in the rear of any position the Russians may hold on the west bank of the Yalu; but since the first telegram to this effect we have had no confirmation of the news, except a strongly supported rumour in local military circles, claiming to be based on official despatches. If it turns out to be true that the Japanese are at Feng-hwang-cheng, and if they are there in any force, it is difficult to see how General KUROPATKIN can hold to his plan of defending the line of the Yalu. Should he be compelled to relinquish his intention there will be nothing for him to do but to fall back either on Moukden or, further still, on Harbin, where Viceroy ALEXIEFF has now his headquarters. Such a retirement promises to seal the fate of Port Arthur, which already seems to be in dire straits. The Japanese, moreover, are expected to occupy Newchwang as soon as the thaw is sufficient to allow them to approach the harbour.

Before the actual outbreak of war, a well-known Japanese military officer, Colonel OKA, then in Europe, sketched to an interviewer his idea of his country's plan of campaign in event of hostilities. He anti-

cipated first the naval success which has fallen to the lot of Japan. The main military force would then be landed at Chemulpo, as has also been done. Their objective would be Harbin, the junction of the lines from Siberia to Vladivostok and to Port Arthur. If this advance should fail, Japan would make the Yalu the line of defence, throwing up entrenchments and keeping open the communications by sea. In either case Colonel OKA looked for a long and sanguinary war, but trusted to Japan being able to maintain the struggle owing to her advantages in the matter of transport. It is too early yet to judge to what extent the Japanese military expert was correct in his sketch of the plan of operations, but it certainly looks as if an attempt were going to be made to push on to Moukden after forcing or turning the position on the Yalu; and if Moukden can be reached, it is unlikely that Japan will be content without making every effort in her power to carry Harbin also and thus free Southern Manchuria from the Russians. But that the task will be one of enormous difficulty must be admitted by the warmest admirers of Japan. Success would settle definitely the question of the merits of the Japanese soldier. Those critics are many who anticipate Russia's victory when it comes to handling masses of troops. There are, however, really no data by which we can judge. Time alone will show.

HONGKONG AND ITS HINTERLAND.

(Daily Press 19th March.)

We were glad to see among the subjects prominently discussed in the report of the local branch of the China Association and at the annual meeting on Thursday those of the construction of the Kowloon-Canton railway and of the opening of Waichow. Both of these questions we have constantly maintained to be of the utmost importance to the future of Hongkong. For many years past we have urged the necessity of the railway line being built from our possession on the mainland to the capital city of Kwangtung province. With regard to Waichow, we may justly claim to have, in these columns last year, first called public attention to the value of an open port at that place. That the Hongkong branch of the China Association was keeping both matters before the home Government was known already. The annual report reveals to what extent their efforts have gone. Last December a letter was addressed by the Hongkong to the London branch of the Association, urging them, for reasons set out at length, to ask the Foreign Office to press for the concession of the opening of Waichow at the same time as that of Kongmoon. It will be remembered that Article VIII. of the MACKAY treaty stipulated for these two and three other ports to be opened; but, except in the case of Kongmoon, certain changes in duties were to be made in compensation, which have not come into effect. The Association also forwarded a copy of the letter to the Foreign Office, while the Hongkong Government, which happily takes no little interest in the question, sent a copy to the Colonial Office with a covering despatch in strong support. At the time the report was written no answer had been received from Downing Street, but one has been received since, in which, as Mr. WILCOX stated in his speech on Thursday, the Government state that they "can hardly press for this concession, as it forms part of the consideration to be granted by the Chinese Government in return for

the payment of the surtax;" but the Government promise that the British Minister at Peking will be requested to urge upon the Chinese Ministers the desirability of opening Waichow without further delay, unless he is of opinion that there is no likelihood of their entertaining the proposal. With the Chairman of our branch of the Association we can only hope for a more progressive spirit than hitherto on the part of the Chinese Government if the opening of Waichow is to be voluntary. If the Chinese continue in the same mind as now and in the past, we might have to wait centuries before the inclusion of Waichow among the treaty ports. It is rather to be feared that in spite of the representations of the China Association and of the Hongkong Government—and our late Governor was an ardent supporter of the scheme—the authorities at home still fail to recognise what Waichow means if brought into communication with Hongkong. We endeavoured to explain its importance when we discussed the question last September, but there is more that might be said.

The same letter in which the Association wrote about Waichow also contained their views on the matter of the Kowloon-Canton railway. The Association, in the words of the report, made a forcible representation on the subject of the delay in proceeding with the projected line, while offering some suggestions as to the route to be traversed and recommending the construction of a branch line from Sheklung, between Waichow and Canton, to Waichow. Copies of this letter were sent to the Colonial Government and to the British and Chinese Corporation's London office, who are stated to be considering it. On the 10th ultimo, in the House of Commons, Earl PERCY, questioned on the subject of the railway, said that the Government had been informed by the British and Chinese Corporation that as soon as arrangements have been made for financing the Shanghai-Nanking Railway negotiations for the conclusion of the final agreement for the construction of the Canton-Kowloon line will be proceeded with. The matter is receiving very careful attention, he added. With Mr. WILCOX on Thursday, we venture to hope that the Corporation will consider to good purpose. The China Association proposed, in its letter of last December, some subsidy, grant, or guarantee for that portion of the line passing through British territory. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART supported this plan at Thursday's meeting, and the members of the Association were evidently with him when he expressed his opinion that, failing every other means of making that railway, it would be a sound thing for this Colony to guarantee a moderate interest on the cost of construction, since in any case the amount the Colony would be liable for would not be very great, and if the railway prospered the guarantee of a certain interest might never be called up; even in the event of a small debit in the first year or two the prospects of a fair revenue from the railway are extremely good. But we have the Government at home to convince, and hence the branch of the Association in Hongkong is well advised not to rest on its oars, but to keep in mind its Chairman's words that colonists here cannot afford to accept mere assurances on a subject so vitally affecting their interests, and should never be content until they see the tunnels being driven through the Kowloon hills, and the track being laid from the Kowloon terminus. Our late Governor was a keen advocate of the necessity of the railway. Let us trust that Sir MATTHEW NATHAN when he studies the question will be equally convinced, and that an united Colony will at length see its exertions on

behalf of its future welfare rewarded with success.

THE "CHINA TIMES" CASE AT TIENTSIN.

(Daily Press, 16th March.)

A certain amount of explanation has now reached us with regard to the threatened deportation of Mr. JOHN COWEN, up to his resignation on the 5th instant Editor of the *China Times*, from Tientsin in consequence of an article denouncing Russian cruelties in the North. The light thrown on the subject gives a slightly different aspect to the case. It is not clear what part the "military authorities" mentioned in our Tientsin telegram which we published on the 2nd instant took in the affair. It may be that they prompted the action of the British Consul-General. At any rate, on the 24th February an article appeared in the *China Times* on the ill-treatment by the Russians of the Japanese refugees on the steamer *Wenchow*, which left Port Arthur on the 14th ultimo, and this article (part of which appears in another column to-day) concluded with an indictment of the moral state of Port Arthur and Vladivostok. On the following day Mr. COWEN was served with a subpoena to appear before the British Consular Court at Tientsin on the 29th February to answer the charge of committing an act likely to produce or excite to a breach of the public peace. Mr. COWEN appeared as commanded on the 29th ultimo. Proceedings were held in Chambers, and the defendant, asked to give recognisances for his behaviour, declined to do so. A deportation order was made on the 2nd instant. Whether it has been executed or not, we do not know. We imagine not, as there is no news of Mr. COWEN having left Tientsin. Perhaps his resignation has got over the difficulty.

So much for what occurred at Tientsin. A few comments may be made on the justice of the case. In the first place, with regard to the treatment of the *Wenchow* refugees, many details have been published in the Northern papers that we have not had space to reproduce in our columns, but we published a Japanese official despatch on the 19th ultimo, giving an account of their suffering by some of the refugees who had arrived in Japan from Port Arthur, via Chefoo, on the *Wenchow*. The account was less sensational, evidently, than those given at Chefoo and reproduced in the Northern papers, but the story was bad enough. It was briefly this: Some 200 Japanese had already taken refuge on the *Wenchow* on the 7th February, when Admiral ALEXIEFF issued his order forbidding Japanese residents to leave. Eight Russian soldiers were put to guard the *Wenchow*. As the refugees were practically starving, several applications were made to allow food to be procured, but it was not until the night of the 10th that ten bags of rice and half a dozen tins of biscuits were allowed to be taken on board. On the 11th, the drinking water being exhausted, signals were made for some to be sent, but no notice was taken for at least 48 hours; it is not clear that any quantity was sent then. Another hundred refugees were put on board, and on the afternoon of the 14th February the *Wenchow* was permitted to set out for Chefoo, without food or water. The further allegations made against the Russians of ill-treatment may be gathered from the *China Times* article. They may have been exaggerated; only the captain or officers of the *Wenchow* can tell us whether that is so or not.

Now, granting that inhumanity was shown to the unfortunate people on the

Wenchow, must we consider Mr. COWEN within his rights in saying what he did? Provided that he was perfectly assured of the truth of all he alleged, he had, as a public writer, a cruel injustice to call attention to. This he did in very strong language. Exception could not be taken to the use of such language, if used to state the truth, at any ordinary port such as Hongkong or Shanghai. But Tientsin is in a different position. It is garrisoned by troops of various nationalities, including Russians. So whoever it was that charged Mr. COWEN could claim what he could not claim in Hongkong, Shanghai, etc., that the language complained of was likely to provoke a breach of the peace in view of the presence of the troops of various nationalities. It can hardly be denied that the article in the *China Times* might excite more than ill-feeling. Especially, we think, were the references to the morality of Port Arthur and Vladivostok, true though they may be, calculated to excite trouble. Mr. COWEN scarcely showed discretion in going so far as he did in a paper issued in a cosmopolitan settlement like Tientsin, and could not complain if he drew the authorities' attention on himself.

The question remains as to the action taken by the authorities. It will be noted that the subpoena issued by Mr. HOPKINS on the 25th ultimo simply stated that Mr. COWEN had been "charged (on oath) before this Court, for that," etc.; but it is not mentioned who charged him. Proceedings were held in Chambers, not in open court. According to our Tientsin correspondent's telegram of the 8th instant, the *China Times* claims that the sentence was passed without a trial, without evidence being adduced, and without Mr. COWEN being allowed to make a defence. It is difficult to see how such arbitrary measures can have been taken. We have learnt, from REUTER'S London telegram last week, that Sir ERNEST SATOW approved of proceedings being taken against Mr. COWEN. Answers are wanted to two questions: Were the proceedings taken regular? And has Mr. COWEN been deported?

CANONISATION. EAST AND WEST.

(Daily Press, 12th March.)

Canonisation after death has in all ages of the world been a favourite method of showing respect to departed worthies. The method adopted of publishing the fact has varied according to time and circumstances, but the right of declaration has generally been reserved for rulers, sometimes lay, sometimes ecclesiastical. In modern times, in the East and West respectively, two potentates, one lay, the other spiritual—the Emperor of China and the Pope—claim the right of canonisation, and with both it has become a solemn and important rite. The distinctions between the two rites are the differences which hold apart the mental development of Asia and Europe. In the West the spectacle is witnessed in the case of JOAN of Arc of the steps held necessary before the final declaration of sanctity. JOAN has passed what is officially recognised as the second stage in the process; and having successfully proved herself during life to have been especially distinguished by the possession of the saintly virtues of temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice, has been adjudged the preliminary title of "Venerable." For full canonisation proof of the working of miracles is required, and here it is that difficulties intervene. It might fairly be urged that the relief of Orleans, brought about in accordance with JOAN's own prophecy, and

certainly contrary to all human experience, was a sufficient indication of the approval of Heaven; but modern Frenchmen are sceptical, and herein lies the difficulty of the case; for, whereas all Frenchmen are willing to look upon the heroic girl as the saviour politically of the kingdom, not even the most religious are prepared to regard her as in any special manner the regenerator of the Church, whose position was indeed in no respect called in question whichever political party gained the victory. In any case the position of JOAN herself seems with one or other to be little taken into account. It is quite true that without the declaration of canonisation JOAN of Arc, though of course she may receive the prayers of private individuals, will not be entitled to the adoration of the faithful at large, nor may altars be erected or public prayers offered for her intercession. But the conscience of the West seems never to have looked upon these post-mortem honours in what may be described as a sordid spirit. Canonisation is, and has always been, effected not for the honour of the departed, but for the benefit of the living. We have, in fact, never heard the most ardent ecclesiologist plead for the benefits to the saint himself conferred by the ceremony. The dictum of the Church does not alter in the other world the position of the faithful departed, but it affords the pious below one more opportunity of approaching the Throne of Grace. The saint and the sinner must each be responsible for working out his own salvation. It is true, as the Apostle himself tells us, that the prayer of a righteous man availeth much, but no amount of intercession will be able to alter the decrees of the Almighty, nor obtain salvation for the unrepentant sinner.

If, after this picture we look to the East, how different the vision that meets our eyes, and how gross and palpable the objects of canonisation! The life to come in the Confucian philosophy is but the continuation of that of the present. Death is but a bridge over the narrowest of streams, and on the other side bloom the meadows of immortality, fragrant with the spiritual essence of those same delights which make enjoyable the present existence. Posthumous rewards lose none of their eventual sweetness that they are deferred, and the pleasure of occupying a stand in the Valhalla of worthies is as practical and legitimate an aspiration of the subject's ambition as the attainment during life of the highest honours of the State. The happiness of the departed in the Confucian cult by no means depends on the good actions of the deceased during life, but is entirely influenced by the conduct of those whom he has left behind. No state is so miserable as that of the unfortunate shade who dies without a son to continue the sacrifices, or fails to provide by adoption a substitute. In such a case his spirit has to wander aimlessly through the regions of the departed, dependent on the scant charity which the benevolent may supply at the annual festivals of the beggar spirits. There is here no hint even of what we are in Europe accustomed to call religion, for the future wants of the *Manes* have to be met, not by the powers above, but by the offerings of the benevolent on earth. Kings and emperors pass away; for a time their *Manes* meet with loving care from their descendants. The great and powerful cross the bridge which all mortals must traverse without hope of return. As long as their memory is green the offerings smoke at their tombs; but the time will assuredly come when this loving cult will cease, and

rich and poor alike descend to the dead level of the wanderer in the realms of the hereafter. But the sage who has from his countrymen, as represented by the Emperor, been canonised feels none of these miseries. For him at the appointed times rich offerings are made, and smoke ascends from thousands of altars. He alone is king and emperor, and when all others are forgotten he still, in the shady realms of the dead, enjoys a greatness and an immortality denied to all.

Such is the practical and material view which canonisation presents to the Chinaman. The benefits which the most holy of sages can confer on the present generation are passed by us of no account by a people with whom the experience of the past disfavours the belief in the supernatural, or at least in its benevolent influence on the present. But, curiously, the reverse is not held to be the case. The departed can and does inflict injuries, and to avert these is the aim of every Chinaman. It is scarcely from an undiluted feeling of benevolence that offerings are made to the departed, and hence the importance attached to the rite of imperial canonisation, and the enforced offerings to their *Manes*.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE IN 1903.

(Daily Press, 15th March.)

In November last we criticised in these columns a report on Queen's College by Messrs. A. M. THOMSON, E. A. IRVING, and S. B. C. ROSS. We have before us now the report of Dr. G. H. BATESON WRIGHT, Head Master of the school, on the past year's work. It is interesting to compare the two. It may be remembered that the examiners last year abandoned the attempt to draw up a graduated order of merit and set themselves to enquire whether the work of the school was laid upon the soundest possible lines. They devoted about a fortnight, therefore, to the inspection, which included the examination of individual boys and a study of note-books and of the masters' methods. As a result of their investigations they drew up a number of "General Recommendations," the gist of which was that colloquial English should be made the most important instrument for teaching English, which it was not at that time; that the teaching of history and geography should be systematised throughout the school; that less attention should be paid to mathematics, at present the strongest point; that reading should be studied intelligently, not, as now, under the two heads of reading with, and reading without, comprehension of the meaning; that the teaching of Chinese should be altogether reorganised; and that the less competent Chinese masters should be placed under the supervision of English masters. The Governing Body of Queen's College, generally speaking, agreed with the examiners' recommendations, and we may take it therefore that the review of the system of teaching contained in the report was admitted to be just. We see, however, that the Head Master's report takes no notice of it beyond saying that the annual examination of Queen's College in December and January is now held by the Head Master, the inspection and examination by independent examiners being assigned to the summer. This strikes us as a rather curious omission. But we will turn to Dr. BATESON WRIGHT's report.

The total number of boys on the roll at Queen's College in 1903 was 1,453, and the

average attendance 940 per day, practically the same figures as in 1902. There was a small diminution of \$200 in the revenue from fees, but this was due to the necessary closing of the Hall during the first five months of the year for repairs to the roof. The non-Chinese classes were abolished in February, 1903, the falling-off in numbers making the assignment of two English masters to them unjustifiable. The boys from them were scattered among the mixed classes, the result being that the majority of them suffered for it. Chinese School, abolished in 1896, has been restored, five vernacular masters having been appointed. During last January these masters were employed in marking translations into Chinese, in examining boys already in the College with a view to their classification in Vernacular school, and in drawing up time-tables and regulations. A Normal Master, whom Dr. BATESON WRIGHT appealed for as early as in 1887, has been granted at last, the appointment dating from the 1st instant.

With regard to the Oxford Local Examinations, the Head Master states that the good results of 1902 were surpassed in 1903. 29 certificates were obtained by Queen's College boys—5 Senior, 9 Junior, and 15 Preliminary. The mark G, next to Distinction, was obtained 40 times in 1903 as against 16 times in 1902. The percentage of passes was 83 in Senior, 43 in Junior, and 79 in Preliminary. "The inferiority shown by the Junior candidates should prove a salutary lesson for the future," says Dr. BATESON WRIGHT, "as with very little more application several more boys might have passed." In the Annual Examination of the school last December and January 997 took part, a record figure for Queen's College. Dr. BATESON WRIGHT found the result very satisfactory. Estimating 34 per cent. marks as necessary for a pass, he found that in the Upper School (266 boys examined) 88 per cent. passed; in the Lower (493) 87 per cent.; and in the Preparatory (238) 93 per cent. In his observations on the various subjects, he notes in English reading considerable improvement in phrasing, though mispronunciation of common words requires attention. Dictation was very good, except in the junior section of Class I. "Shakespeare," history, geography, and composition were exceedingly well done. The results in conversation were most pleasing. As to grammar, Dr. BATESON WRIGHT regrets once more to be obliged to complain of the low standard reached. Translations from and into Chinese were well done, the former being better than the latter. Under the heading of mathematics, arithmetic was weak, but algebra a successful subject; Classes I. and II. did well in Euclid and book-keeping. The general intelligence paper was better worked than in Dr. BATESON WRIGHT's previous experience, the answers showing acquaintance with a wide field of information. On the whole, it will be seen, the Head Master's conclusions are widely different from those of Messrs. THOMSON, IRVING, and ROSS last summer. We cannot suppose that a vast improvement has been made in the interval, and must therefore consider that the two standards employed were totally unlike, either because the independent examiners were too severe or because Dr. BATESON WRIGHT was too lenient. And we must make allowance too for the natural tendency of the pupils to appear to advantage before one with whom they are familiar rather than before three outside judges. Nevertheless we must confess to finding the margin between the two estimates surprisingly large.

A QUESTION BETWEEN DIRECTORS AND SHAREHOLDERS.

(Daily Press, 14th March.)

In a commercial community like that of Hongkong, certain questions are constantly arising to which answers are not immediately forthcoming. In any commercial community there is necessarily a diversity of interests, in spite of the common bond of commercial enterprise which keeps the various sections together, and therefore, in order to arrive at an adequate answer to some vexed questions, it is imperative to strike a mean or find a compromise which will satisfy, as far as possible, all parties concerned. One question has been brought forward very prominently of late, with reference to the shareholders and the policy of the directors of different concerns in the Colony. We do not propose to pronounce in any definite manner on the merits of the case, but merely to call attention to the point principally at issue. There are, as is a familiar fact, a number of thoroughly sound business concerns in Hongkong, which every year can put forward a most satisfactory balance sheet, showing increasing prosperity and excellent prospects for the future. The shareholders in such concerns might be expected to be delighted at the fact that their money is invested in absolutely trustworthy securities, where the risk of losing their capital is practically non-existent. But what do we find? A large number of these shareholders are anything but satisfied. And why? Their line of argument appears to be as follows: We have put our money into this concern, which every indication showed us to be a sound one. We see it flourishing and its income increasing steadily. Therefore we expect an increasing return for our money. We have already invested in other companies, which have gone to the wall, thereby losing us our capital. If we suffer with the bad companies, should we not profit with the good? But no! We find that in the successful companies the Directors go in for a policy of consolidating and strengthening, of writing off on depreciation, and not of increasing the dividends. Now, if we wanted simply a certain investment, we have the Banks, with their four per cent. on fixed deposits, or there are Debentures, which promise us six per cent. We have preferred to put our money in the concerns of which we are now complaining, because we saw that they both were sound and offered the prospect of large increases in revenue. But we find that we do not profit with their growing prosperity. We have contributed our money to build up the concerns, but it rests with the Directors whether we are to reap the reward. It may be that we sell out when we leave the Colony, after five years, during which time we have had but moderate dividends. The Directors may decide next year to give a more generous dividend, the benefit of which a man who has bought from us and has only held the shares a few months may enjoy. Are we not right in asking for a sort of equity of dividend, and a consistent method of writing down—for example, a regular ten per cent. for depreciation, not one year five per cent. and another one, per cent? These concerns in which we are investing are not like Fire Insurance companies, where the risk is unlimited and the managers can never know when they will not suffer heavy losses; they are well established companies, with limited risks. In a word, we ask for consistency of writing down and for an equitable dividend.

So we may conceive certain shareholders speaking, so indeed they do speak. It is difficult to deny the reasonableness of their remarks. On the other hand the Directors point out the wisdom of steady dividends rather than very large ones in years of unusual prosperity, which might raise excessive expectations for the future. We mentioned above the possibility of compromise. We do not see that Directors in this Colony need fear the request for equitable dividends. Such a system cuts both ways. If it is understood to be ruling, the investors cannot complain. As it is, they charge the Directors, in many cases, with caprice or with undue caution in years of prosperity. Nothing can do more to promote the best interests of a company than a good understanding between the Directors and the main body of the shareholders.

THE OPIUM FARM DIFFICULTY.

(Daily Press, 16th March.)

With reference to the article which we reproduce in another column from our Chinese contemporary the *Chung Ngai San Po* about the Opium Farmer and the sale of opium-pills and wine, we must confess that it appears to us that the Opium Farmer is entitled to the privilege which the Amending Ordinance proposes to confer upon him. He is paying a sum of \$2,200,000 a year to the Government for a monopoly of the sale of opium in the Colony, and under existing conditions he does not get a monopoly. There is evidently a very large demand for opium-pills and wine in the Colony, and the Opium Farmer is to that extent deprived of income which should rightly be his. It appears to be no secret that the Opium Farmer is losing somewhat heavily on his contract, for the substantial increase in the price of prepared opium which has followed the rise in the value of raw opium has, we understand, led to a remarkable falling-off in the consumption, and the trade in opium-pills as an alternative has largely benefited. Naturally the Opium Farmer looks to the Government to protect his interests in the matter, and it is hard to dispute the reasonableness of his claim. If the sale of opium-pills were altogether prohibited we might find reasons to join in the protest of our Chinese contemporary; but we understand that the Ordinance simply intends to give the right of sale to the Opium Farmer. As the opium-pill is admittedly a substitute for opium-smoking, we cannot see that the monopoly of its sale can reasonably be withheld from the Farmer. The consideration of the Bill by the Legislative Council has been postponed at the instance of the Attorney-General to allow consideration of some Chinese objections and recommendations. While it is scarcely to be expected that the Government will abandon the Bill it is quite possible that the Attorney-General may see his way to incorporate provisions which will to some extent meet the objections of the protesters and ensure the continuance of a sale of these pills and wine at a figure which shall not be prohibitive.

The Japanese Acting Consul at Manila reports to the Tokyo Government that the Administrative Council there has passed a resolution in favour of lowering the rate of Customs duty on imported matches to just half the scale now in force. It is said that the Japanese authorities had, at the instance of the Kobe Chamber of Commerce, approached the U.S. Government in November last with a view to the tariff rate on Japanese matches being decreased.

HONGKONG JOTTING.

(Daily Press 14th March.)

As the rains gradually come on and the Peak retires from our sight in its wrapping of mist, we begin to grow conscious in Hongkong of the ending of our Season, so far as there is a definite season here. The Amateur Dramatic Club has concluded its work for some time to come, and nearly all the dances are done. Public functions are temporarily suspended—until, I suppose, the arrival of Sir Matthew Nathan, which will not apparently be much longer deferred. As for sport, as my fellow-writer on Saturday has pointed out, it is dying slowly; dying, that is to say, until autumn brings it to life again. Very soon now we shall have only "wet weariness" and business affairs to contemplate; and, as the Japanese and Russians are both determined that the correspondents shall not tell us too much, even war news will not apparently provide us with too much excitement to distract us. Now in the dead season at home newspapers would get up a discussion on "Sea Serpents" or "What to do with our daughters." We cannot rise (or sink) to that here apparently. But why should we not have buried treasures? If the P. W. D. wants any road particularly needed for traffic blocked in the old familiar way, is there no paper that is willing to bury a few \$50 discs in its decomposed granite? The game seems to create a lot of interest at home, and it is just as wet there as here, to judge by recent accounts.

The number of petty house-thefts by "boys" that have been reported to the police within the last week, not to mention those cases that have not been reported, provide a new reason if that were needed for some drastic measures being taken in the direction of registration of servants. In Hongkong we are utterly unprotected against the peculations of our house servants. They do these things better in China where the "boys" come from. In the interior if a "boy" is taken into service by an European or a Chinese even, his family stand security for his good behaviour, and in the event of his misbehaviour the parents or the clan collectively are held responsible. Will our Government, in considering this matter, never grasp the difference between East and West?

All the week rain has threatened, but we have had precious little of it. Rain is very badly wanted, for, in certain districts of the Colony, houses for some days past have been absolutely without a supply of water. I trust there is a good deal of truth in the report I mentioned last week that His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been taking measures which will accelerate the provision of additional water-storage; for as things are at present the Colony is exposed to a serious epidemic of typhoid. When one sees the number of coolies who at all hours of the day are catching water in the nullahs, some of it evidently for drinking purposes, one can only wonder that typhoid is not more prevalent at the present time than it actually is.

I have had something to say before on the subject of Hongkong's beggars, of which there are not a few, and I am glad to notice that several very objectionable types have disappeared from the streets, no doubt "moved on" by our Police. But while Queen's Road, especially, in the Central district, is kept pretty clear of these pests, there are several side streets still infested by them—notably Pottinger Street, Wyndham Street and their off-shoots, where groups of filthy, neglected-looking urchins of both sexes, lurk in corners making a rush at each foreign passer-by, and holding out grimy hands for *Cumsha*. It is fatal to one's comfort to give them anything, for they immediately accept such an act as the giver's adoption of them as permanent pensioners, and lay in wait for him every time he passes up those streets, and persist in annoying him, by following him until he has to adopt drastic measures, but only to find the nuisance repeated the very next time he passes. The House of Detention is about the proper place for these creatures of the gutter, who, for the most part, are thieves and pick-pockets in embryo.

It is an open secret that long before the Transvaal Legislature had actually acceded to demand of the Rand mining magnates for the importation of Chinese coolies to the Transvaal, agencies had already been established for the purpose of securing the necessary "yellow" labour in these parts. Those agencies have been active for some time past and now the agents are only awaiting definite orders from the Witwatersand authorities to begin the shipment of coolies. It is expected that most of the emigrants will pass through Hongkong. Contrary to a belief held in some quarters, the Chinese Government is offering no objections to the engagement of Chinese coolies for the work, and the coolies themselves are said to be very willing to enter upon the enterprise.

In the matter of the breeding of dogs in Hongkong, one is always coming across people who deplore the fact that it is almost an impossibility to keep puppies from following strangers, if the puppies are allowed to go out among the crowd. A gentleman who does not pretend to be a dog-fancier tells me that on several consecutive nights he was followed home by a homeless puppy which he was forced to take in latterly from humane reasons, with the result that the canine visitor will not leave the house. Instances of this kind are not unfrequent. Dog-owners in Hongkong are too apt to be careless in the registration of their dogs. They ought to be alive to the fact that if a stray dog is captured by the police there is an extremely small chance of its escaping from the lethal chamber.

The Opium Farmer, through his representative, Mr. Spooner, is kept busy in these days, as scarcely a day passes by without several groups of Chinese being summoned to appear before the Police Magistrates for being in possession of more opium than they held licence for; and, notwithstanding the infliction of the fullest penalties provided by the ordinance for the offence, it seems to have no deterrent effect on others. Apparently what is needed are stringent measures to prevent anybody but those personally approved by the Opium Farmer, and under his immediate control, from selling either the prepared opium, the opium dross, pills or wine. There is seldom any trouble at Singapore in this direction; there should not be here.

Among the Chinese in Hongkong there has been much discussion of late in respect to the new Bill which is presently before the Legislative Council, amending the Prepared Opium Ordinance, 1891. The object of the Bill is stated to be "to check and ultimately prevent the sale of opium in the Colony by unauthorised persons," the present operative Ordinance having been found insufficient to prevent the sale of opium in the shape of pills and wine. A prominent Chinese tells me that the stopping of the sale of pills will have a bad effect. These pills, it appears, are used for the cure of the opium habit. They contain only a very small percentage of the drug—so small as to be almost imperceptible when analysed. If their sale is made so expensive as to be prohibitive to the coolie class, my informant states, it will simply mean an increase of crime, for if the opium slaves cannot get their narcotic by fair means they will not hesitate to obtain it by foul.

(Daily Press, 21st March.)

I think it will be the impression of most people in Hongkong that the controversy on the subject of the administration of the Colony under our late Governor has gone far enough. Sir Henry Blake has certainly administered a knock-out blow in his letter to the *Investors' Review*, the paper to which Mr. Robert Shewan sent his letter which the *Times* refused to print in full. Mr. Shewan courted the blow, it must be admitted, and cannot complain of the "brutal frankness" of his opponent. Surely the affair can be allowed to rest now? No good can be done by protracting the discussion in various papers whose readers are not interested in it. There were many points which were open to criticism in Sir Henry Blake's administration; but neither Mr. Ireland nor Mr. Shewan adopted the right method of criticising, and both permitted themselves to make misstatements which seriously weakened their cases.

I will only mention one point in Mr. Shewan's letter to the *Investors' Review* in which he goes wrong. He speaks of Hongkong being governed by "men sent out by the Colonial Office, who know nothing of our wants and ways and few of whom ever seem to learn—many of them merely mediocre schoolboys, one day in charge of the Police Department and the next the Post Office, or Treasury, or Magistracy without any previous training for those important offices." "Nor is this to be wondered at," he continues, "for to a great extent the Colonial service is supplied from the ranks of those who cannot pass to higher examinations for the Consular and other better paid Civil Services." Now Mr. Shewan seems to be unaware that the Hongkong Civil Service is recruited by cadets who go through the same identical examination as the Indian Civil Service, and that so far from us getting men who "cannot pass the higher examinations" (which do not exist) we have in this Colony men who were high up in the Indian list, including one placed seventh, if I am not mistaken. In any case the difference in marks even between the highest and lowest candidates in the Civil Service examination is too small to put them on different planes of intellect. In stigmatising our cadets as "mediocre schoolboys," while contrasting the other services with that of Hongkong, Mr. Shewan betrays a want of knowledge which is not permissible in a public man such as our popular Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council is. I, for one, very much regretted to see him "give himself away" as he did.

In no recent year have the vagaries of our Colony's climate been more marked than they have been this Spring. Twelve months ago at this season we were enjoying fine bright weather with a pleasantly high temperature. A week ago one would have sworn that we had entered upon the hot weather in real earnest, the glass registering from 72 to 74 degrees. Yet on Saturday the thermometer fell from 74 to 62 degrees, and following upon such a hot spell the cold appeared to be more intense than any that we had experienced during the winter. The only consolation to be drawn from the infliction upon us of last week's muggy, drizzling weather is that the reservoirs have been replenished, and a water-famine avoided.

The notice which the local branch of the China Association has taken of the flagrant violation of British sovereignty by the cold-blooded murder of the Chinese schoolmaster in Gage Street at the instigation of the Chinese officials in Canton is such as to deserve the thanks of the entire community. The claim for reparation ought to be pressed against the Chinese authorities very strongly. There should be nothing lackadaisical about the attitude of the British authorities in this matter. If the memories of Departmental officials were not so proverbially short, a remembrance of the cost of this kind of attitude in previous, though less flagrant, cases of the kind would supply the incentive necessary for energetic action. In his recently published autobiography Sir William Des Vœux has something to say on this very topic. He mentions a case of a man who was seized in Hongkong harbour, carried to the Chinese mainland, and immediately executed. The Governor of the Colony at the time of the occurrence took no action beyond reporting the circumstance to the home government; and though after diplomatic representation a tardy apology was obtained from the Chinese Government the fact of this slight *amende* was unknown it being generally believed that no punishment whatever had been inflicted upon the officials concerned. One would almost think, considering the time that has elapsed since the Government's attention was called to the evidence given in the Supreme Court last year at the trial of one of the accomplices in the murder of Yeung Ku Wan, a member of the Chinese Reform party, that the affair had been quietly settled in similar manner, for it is simply incredible that the British Government should allow a matter of this kind to drag on indefinitely. Sir William Des Vœux cites the first case mentioned above as "only one of many instances within my experience where the policy of keeping things quiet, which used to be officially so much approved, was gained at the cost of increased trouble in the future."—*Verb. sap.*

Something was said in this column a week or two ago concerning the defective orthography in many of the sign-board outside Chinese shops on the Colony, resulting in some cases in the most comical announcements being made. Some of the printing establishments have also been adding to the amusement of the British community lately. A week or two ago I observed a poster intimating that "several local talents" would assist at a concert, and now I observe the announcement of "A grand artistical string concert."

Very few Europeans at Hongkong seem to keep gold-fish, though, indeed, there is a certain demand for China gold-fish in Europe. The Chinese, of course, go in for them pretty strongly, as is fully demonstrated by the number sometimes seen for sale in Queen's Road and other thoroughfares. It would be interesting to hear what the writer of "Notes from the Botanic Gardens" has to say on the matter. There must be quite a few species in that pretty little fountain pond. The following interesting paragraph appears in one of the most recent issues of a home paper:—"The most beautiful and costly fish in the world come from China, and the rarest and most expensive of all is the brush-tail gold-fish. Specimens of this have sold for as high as £140 each, and in Europe the prices range from £50 to £100. The brush-tail gold-fish is so small that a five-shilling piece will cover it, and probably there is no living thing of its size and weight that is worth so much money." I notice that there are some fine gold-fish, of the large sort, in tubs at the Zetland Street Masonic Temple compound.

BANYAN

THE WAR.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

London, 13th March.

Admiral Makaroff telegraphs from Vladivostok that in a naval action on the 11th inst. the Russian destroyer *Steregushchi* and also a Japanese torpedo-boat were sunk.

London, 17th March.

General Kuropatkin has ordered Admiral Stoessel to continue to hold Port Arthur. The General intends to place 250,000 troops on the Yalu, and to guard the railway with 150,000.

Kobe, 14th March.

Admiral Togo reports that on the 10th instant two Japanese flotillas composed of torpedo-destroyers advanced to Port Arthur with the object of laying contact-mines. Six Russian destroyers came out and attacked them, when a fight at close quarters occurred. A boiler on one of the Russian vessels burst, and the other five fled shattered by the combat. The Japanese destroyers *Asashio* and *Akatsuki* were damaged, the latter's boiler also bursting, whereby four firemen were fatally scalded.

The second flotilla intercepted two of the enemy's destroyers and an hour's fighting ensued. One of the Russian vessels escaped, and the other sank. The Japanese casualties were 22.

Port Arthur harbour seems well mined.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

We received from the Japanese Consul on the 14th inst. a copy of the following official telegram sent to him from Japan:—

"Tokyo, 13th March, 2.10 p.m.

"Admiral Togo, commander-in-chief of the main fleet, reports that the Japanese destroyer flotilla attacked Port Arthur, as previously arranged, on the 10th inst. The attacking force was divided into two sections, A and B. Both of these succeeded in reaching the entrance of the port, about midnight. Search was made for the enemy's ships, but was not successful. At daylight, B section of the flotilla succeeded in laying numerous mechanical contact mines outside of the harbour, notwithstanding the fact that a heavy fire was directed on the destroyers from the forts. At 4.30

a.m. section A of the flotilla met six Russian destroyers off the southern end of Liaotishan, and an engagement ensued, lasting twenty minutes. The destroyers *Asashio*, *Kasumi*, and *Akatsuki* steamed up close to the enemy and opened a heavy fire on their boats. The Russian destroyers, unable to withstand this violent attack, during which the engines of several were severely damaged, and the boats set on fire, turned and fled, some of their crew shouting for mercy the while. In this engagement our destroyers were somewhat damaged, seven of our sailors were killed, and Chief Engineer Minamisawa and eight men were wounded. The torpedo-destroyer *Akatsuki* had her auxiliary steam-pipe cut, and four of the engine-room staff were killed. However, none of our boats were put out of action.

"At 7 a.m., B section of the flotilla, when returning from the harbour, encountered two Russian destroyers making for Port Arthur. Our boats at once opened fire on them, and one fled while the other, the *Steregushchi*, was seriously damaged, and ultimately captured by our destroyer, the *Saganami*. It was intended to tow her to our fleet, but the tow-rope broke, and the Russian destroyer, which was leaking badly, sank at 10.10 a.m. The *Saganami* rescued four of her crew, who were struggling in the water. During the engagement, B section of flotilla suffered comparatively small loss. Two sailors were killed, and sub-lieutenant Shima and three of the men wounded. The Russian cruisers *Novik* and *Bayan* came outside to aid the two destroyers, and pursued B section of our flotilla, but on seeing the Japanese cruiser fleet approach they steamed back into the harbour.

"At 8 a.m., the same day, our main fleet, together with the cruiser squadron, approached Port Arthur. The cruisers joined the destroyers off the entrance to the harbour, while the main fleet steamed towards Liaotishan. All our ships opened a heavy indirect fire on the town and ships lying in the harbour, being answered, at intervals, by the enemy's forts. Our vessels were undamaged, and subsequently the cruisers proceeded to Talienwan, and bombarded the enemy's buildings on the island of Sanzan. These were seen to have been seriously damaged. "Our cruisers *Takasago* and *Chihaya* steamed to the west of Port Arthur, along the coast, but found no sign of the enemy's fleet. They perceived, in Pigeon Bay, the masts and funnels of the Russian destroyer *Vnushitelni*, which had previously been damaged, showing above the surface. This vessel had evidently sunk since the action. All our ships ceased firing at 2 p.m. and the fleet withdrew."

The Japanese Consul informed us on the 15th inst. that he had on the previous evening received the following official telegram:—

"Tokyo, 14th March, 5.45 p.m.

"Referring to the combat at Port Arthur on the 10th, Admiral Togo reports that information received from the commander of the destroyer *Saganami* states that the prisoners rescued from the Russian torpedo-vessel *Steregushchi* were picked up in the water. One was a torpedo-instructor, and the three others were stokers, two of whom were wounded. No others living were found on board, though numerous killed were seen. It would seem that the remainder of the crew, fearing capture, had jumped overboard. An attempt was made to rescue other of the enemy's sailors from drowning, but our destroyers were forced to desist owing to the fire from the forts being continued and the approach of the cruiser *Novik*.

"The wounded prisoners are being treated by our medical officers and progressing favourably. They have expressed their gratitude at our efforts to assure their comfort."

TELEGRAMS VIA SHANGHAI, ETC.

Peking, 29th February.

Viceroy Alexieff, with his staff, is at Moukden. He sent a note to the Tartar General and urged him to issue a notice that China and Russia are co-operating in the present war. The Tartar General refused to comply with the request. Viceroy Alexieff then issued a notice himself and warned the Chinese that they would be strictly punished if they failed to respect the announcement and refused to render assistance to the Russians.—*Kobe Shimbun*.

Yingkow, 3rd March.

The Russo-Chinese Bank has issued notices to depositors at Newchwang requesting them to withdraw their deposits, as the bank is likely to be closed shortly. The Bank states that it will pay roubles for dollars, or will transfer accounts to other branches. This is regarded as indicating that there will be trouble here before many days pass.

The *Sivoutch* (Russian gunboat) is cleared for action. No doubt the Russians will evacuate this place if attacked.—*China Times*.

[The *N.-C. Daily News* says that late telegrams from Newchwang state that the Russians there are making no preparations for defence, but will probably retire on Haicheng as soon as the port opens, which will probably be on the 18th. The Russian gunboat *Bobre* in dock there will be blown up by her captain when the Russians retire].

Tokyo, 7th March.

The construction of the railway between Seoul and Pingyang has been commenced. It will be opened in September.—*N.-C. D. N.*

Osaka, 8th March.

A report has reached here that there has been an engagement between Russian and Japanese troops about 100 miles from Vladivostok. The Russians fled, leaving their arms and stores behind.—*N.-C. D. N.*

Tokyo, 8th March.

Marquis Ito has been appointed special Ambassador for the purpose of presenting an autograph letter from the Emperor of Japan, embodying friendly enquiries addressed to the Emperor of Corea. The Marquis starts about the 15th instant.—*N.-C. D. N.*

NORTHERN NEWS.

The following items are from Shanghai and Japanese papers:—

The Waiwupu and the Russian Minister at Peking are reported to have decided upon the following as contraband goods during the Russo-Japanese war:—Hand and artillery weapons, iron tools, combustible substances, explosive matters and apparatus, all supplies necessary for the artillery, military engineering, and infantry, cutting iron wires, building pontoons, and pontoon bridges, army provisions, uniforms, material for navigating vessels all kind of engines used on board vessels, all kinds of boilers, coal, *Shih Non* oil, spirits of wine, all telegram codes, railway materials, provisions, rice and stores, horses and live stock, all kinds of necessities for land and naval engagements.

The *China Times* correspondent at Yinkow denies the truth of the report of the frustrated attempt to blow up the Sungari railway bridge and the hanging of three Japanese officers. The statement was circulated by the Russians to impress the Chinese.

It seems now that the Japanese who landed at Tengehou, Shantung, and were reported to have come from a sunken Japanese cruiser, were really from the steamer *Jinsen* which went down near the entrance to Port Arthur. They subsequently went on to Chefoo, and a Japanese cruiser and torpedo-boat entered Chefoo harbour without lights at 1 o'clock on the morning of the 26th ult. and took on board all the survivors, leaving before daylight.

A reliable correspondent sends to the *N. C. Daily News* the interesting news that the whole of the rolling stock from the Shan-haikwan-Yinkow line has been brought within the Wall, so that the Russians will find a bare line only when they come that way. From this the correspondent infers that the Chinese, in connection with their northern railway system, are going to profit by their last experience with the Russians.

A Newchwang telegram of the 10th inst. says:—"The ice in the rivers here is melting. The Japanese troops are expected soon to attack the Russians, who, contemplating such an eventuality, have ordered the inhabitants to remove their families into the interior, and are hurriedly landing their cannon." The *Tung Wen Hu Pao* hears that the Russians are greatly afraid that the Japanese will attack Newchwang. Therefore they have laid seven submarine mines in the Lisoho, and have established a signal-station at a point south-east of Yinkow.

It was officially stated to the Press in Shanghai on the 12th inst. that the vital por-

tions of the large guns, the small arms, and other offensive fittings of the Russian gunboat *Mandjour*, have been deposited with the Imperial Customs authorities, while the shells, ammunition, and torpedoes have been placed on a small Chinese gunboat of an obsolete type for safe keeping, this boat also being under the control of the Customs. The Japanese cruiser *Akitsuishima* was expected to leave Shanghai in consequence.

The *Sin Wen Pao* states that Admiral Alexioff has again demanded the withdrawal of all Chinese troops from Moukden. He has informed the Tartar General and civil Governor of this, stating that he will himself have the city guarded, as a garrison of 40,000 men will be there shortly.

Writing on the 9th inst. with reference to the position at Vladivostok, the *N.-C. Daily News* says that, if it is true that the Russian squadron had gone out on another cruise and that their retreat into the northern harbour has been cut off, it would seem that a regular naval engagement must be imminent. A British steamer which left Vladivostok on the 23rd and reached Nagasaki on the 26th, reports that at the former date the four cruisers were lying inactive and showing no signs of leaving the harbour. Two armed transports were there also. The ice at the entrance to the harbour was 3 feet thick, and communications by land were very arduous.

A Russian official despatch reports that four of the enemy's posts were discovered at the Chingchin-gang River, north of Pingyang. It declares that a Japanese cavalry patrol fell into an ambush and was dispersed.

It is rumoured in Tokyo that the Russian fleet left Port Arthur after the 10th instant, making a dash to join the squadron at Vladivostok. A foreigner who has arrived at Newchwang from Port Arthur reports that a short engagement occurred there on Sunday, the 12th instant, the fleets exchanging twenty or thirty shots, the cruiser *Diana* receiving some damage.

Admiral Alexioff, in a detailed account of the bombardment of Vladivostok, confirms that 200 shells were fired, but says nothing about their failure to explode. The Japanese squadron steamed up and down three times without doing any damage to the fortress or the entrenchments. The damage to the town and other parts of the fortifications was insignificant. The operations for putting the batteries in readiness for action were carried out in perfect order. On Monday the squadron skirted the shore without firing, and disappeared in a southerly direction.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 14th inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY Major-General VILLIERS HATTON, C.B.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY (Attorney-General).

Hon. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

NEW MEMBER.

Capt. L. A. W. Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., Harbour Master, took the oath and assumed his seat as a member of the Council.

FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 13 to 18), and moved that they be referred to the Finance

Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 2) and moved its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the reports for 1903 on the Police, the Victoria Gaol, the Fire Brigade, the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, the Tung Wa Hospital, Queen's College, and the plague epidemic.

SIR HENRY BLAKE'S SERVICES AS GOVERNOR.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY also laid on the table the following paper:—

Downing Street, 13th January, 1904.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 513 of the 27th of November, forwarding extracts from the local press relating to the presentation of addresses to Sir H. A. Blake on his departure from the Colony to assume the Government of Ceylon.

2. I have read these reports with great interest and have been much pleased to note the evidence which they afford of the esteem in which Sir H. A. Blake is held by all classes of the community. I cordially agree with all that has been said as to the ability and success with which he has administered the Government of Hongkong.

3. The period of his administration has been marked by events of such importance to the well-being of the Colony, such as the hoisting of the British flag in the territory leased by China under the Agreement of the 8th of June, 1898, and the inauguration of works for providing an additional and adequate water supply for the city of Victoria. It has, unfortunately, been marked by serious outbreaks of bubonic plague, and by no means the least part of the debt of gratitude which the Colony owes to its late Governor is due to the vigour and energy which he has displayed in the endeavour to check the mortality from this disease and to diminish, so far as possible, the danger of further outbreaks.—I have, &c.,

ALFRED LYTTELTON.

The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

KOWLOON WATERWORKS.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS laid on the table the following report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee at a meeting held on 19th February:—

The Chairman explained that when the scheme for the water supply of Kowloon, which is at present being carried out, was prepared, plans showing the surrounding country were not available, and consequently the area from which water could be collected by means of a catchwater could not be definitely ascertained. It was assumed, however, that there would be no difficulty in arranging for an area of 400 acres, and the estimate submitted by the engineers (Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs) was based upon that assumption. The estimate for the catchwater amounted to \$40,000. From plans which were now available and which he submitted to the Committee, it was found that it would be possible to construct a catchwater along the northern slopes of the Kowloon range of hills as far as the Shatin Pass Valley. This catchwater would be about 5 miles in length and would intercept the drainage from an area of about 1,000 acres. It was estimated that the cost of constructing the entire catchwater would be \$120,000; or, if the portion required to intercept the drainage from an area of 400 acres only were constructed of such dimensions as to admit of the complete scheme being carried out at some future time, the cost was estimated at \$95,000. It was not necessary to carry out the entire scheme at once so far as present requirements were concerned, but there would be an economy in doing so as it would be simpler for the contractor to carry out the whole work simultaneously than in two or more sections at different periods.

The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the entire scheme be carried out at once and, as it appeared likely that the storage reservoir would not be large enough to contain the water which would be rendered available, they also recommended that steps should be taken to increase its capacity.

DOMESTIC CLEANLINESS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following paper and moved its approval:—

The Bye-laws Nos. 2 and 3, under the heading "Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation," and the whole of the Bye-laws under the heading "Scavenging and Conservancy," contained in Schedule "B" of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, are hereby repealed, and the following Bye-laws are hereby substituted therefor:—

New Bye-laws made under Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903—Scavenging and Conservancy.

1. The general surface scavenging of the City of Victoria, the Hill Districts and the larger villages in the Colony and the removal of nightsoil and cognate matters from the Hill Districts, public buildings, and free and licensed latrines, shall be carried out by contractors in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contracts for the time being in force.

2. The servants of the various public sanitary contractors shall, while at work, wear such distinguishing badges as shall from time to time be directed by the Board.

3. The occupier of any premises, or if there be no occupier the immediate landlord, shall make due provision for the daily removal of all excreta, matters, domestic waste, refuse or other objectionable matters, from his premises to the conservancy boats, and dust-carts or dust-boats.

4. Occupiers shall provide themselves with strong substantial movable dust-bins for the reception of the day's house refuse.

5. No excreta matters shall be placed in or upon or conveyed along or across any public road or street except between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6 a.m.

6. No pig-wash or other noxious or offensive waters shall be placed in or upon or conveyed along or across any public road or street except between the hours of midnight and 9 a.m.

7. No excreta matters, pig-wash, or other noxious or offensive waters shall be placed in or upon or conveyed along or across any public road or street except in strong substantial buckets with closely fitting covers and of such pattern as may from time to time be approved by the Board.

8. No excreta matters, or pig-wash or other noxious or offensive waters shall be emptied, discharged, deposited, or placed in, over, or upon any gully, drain, or sewer or any inlet thereto or (after removal from any premises) in any place other than the conservancy boats provided for that purpose (except in the case of pig-wash, which may be conveyed to any licensed pig-stye).

9. In these Bye-laws the term "excreta matters" includes urine.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY also moved the approval of the following Amendment to No. 5 of the Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation Bye-laws contained in Schedule "B" of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, made under Section 16 of the aforesaid Ordinance:—

No. 5 of the Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation Bye-laws contained in Schedule "B" of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, is hereby amended by deleting the last sentence thereof and substituting therefor the following:—"and notice that such cleansing and limewashing has been completed shall be sent to the Secretary of the Board within three days after the date of completion."

The Note to No. 5 of the Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation Bye-laws made by the Board on June 4th, 1903, and published in the Gazette as Government Notification No. 442 of 1903, is hereby repealed; and the following substituted therefor:—"The western boundary of the eastern division of the City is Gilman Street and Peel Street; the western boundary of the central division of the City is Tank Lane and Cleverly Street; the western division of the City lies to the west of Tank Lane and Cleverly Street. Kowloon is divided into eastern and western divisions by Robinson Road and a straight line drawn from the north end thereof through the Yaumati service reservoir to the northern boundary of Kowloon."

The ATTORNEY GENERAL seconded and the motion was agreed to.

NEW TERRITORIES REGULATION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the following resolution:—"Whereas, by Section 6 of The New Territories Regulation Ordinance (No. 12 of 1899) it was enacted that the said Ordinance should remain in force for the period of one year from the date of its coming into operation, and for such further period or periods as might, from time to time, be determined by resolution of the Legislative Council: And whereas, by previous resolutions of the Legislative Council the said Ordinance has been continued in force until the 18th day of April, 1904, and it is expedient that the said Ordinance should have permanent effect given to it it is hereby resolved that the New Territories Regulation Ordinance, 1899, shall remain in force until otherwise resolved by this Council." He said—The object of the resolution is to make permanent Ordinance No. 12 of 1899 under which the Governor in Council has power to make rules for farming out or licensing the right to deal in spirits, opium, salt, and any other commodity in the New Territory, and to make rules for the collection by process of law of revenue and the custody and manner of keeping accounts relating thereto, and for the collection and recovery of rents, taxes and contributions generally for revenue purposes from the New Territory. For these purposes under this Ordinance the Governor in Council is authorised to make rules and regulations. The Ordinance as originally passed in 1899 was to remain in operation for one year only or for such further period as the Legislative Council by resolution from time to time should determine. Year by year resolutions have been passed, and the last resolution was passed two years ago to the effect that the Ordinance should remain in force until April of this year. It has been found inconvenient for many reasons to have this constant recurrence of application to the Council for keeping in force this most necessary Ordinance. Among other dangers there is the danger of omitting this resolution when the Ordinance would lapse and all the powers thereunder fail. It has been considered wise and expedient therefore that the Council should now be asked to pass a resolution which in its terms will keep the Ordinance in force until this Council shall otherwise determine. It will take the place of the annual or bi-annual resolution keeping the Ordinance in force for a limited period only.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was agreed to.

MOTIONS POSTPONED.

In the absence of Hon. H. E. Pollock, the following motions of which he had given notice were meantime with drawn:—"That, in view of the letter which was recently addressed by Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, F.R.S., to the Times newspaper on the subject of leprosy being caused by tainted fish, it is desirable that the Hongkong Government should cause some enquiry to be made into the question by its medical officers. That it is desirable that the replies to questions which are put by Unofficial Members of Council should be published in the Government Gazette in addition to the questions themselves."

NEW TERRITORIES LAND COURT ORDINANCE. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend the New Territories Land Court Ordinance, No. 18 of 1891.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The object of this Bill is to provide for the reconstruction of the Land Court constituted under Ordinance No. 18 of 1900 and for a modification of its procedure for the purpose of facilitating the work of settling claims to land in the New Territories. With this object in view the Bill provides, *inter alia*, that each member of the Court shall have power sitting one to hear and determine any claim. By the appointment of additional members to the Court the work of settling titles, which for various reasons has been progressing slowly, will, it is expected, be rapidly and satisfactorily accomplished.

PREPARED OPIUM ORDINANCE.

The next item on the agenda was the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Prepared Opium Ordinance, 1891.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated that he did not propose to proceed with this Bill at present as he wished to consider some objections and recommendations which had been made to him on the subject.

SUGAR CONVENTION.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to enable effect to be given in this Colony to a Convention signed the fifth day of March, Nineteen hundred and two, in relation to Sugar.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This Ordinance is intended to enable this Colony to give effect to the Brussels Sugar Convention.

The Council adjourned till the 21st inst.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held after the Council, the Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. M. Thomson) presiding.

GRANTS TO OFFICIALS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote sums of \$2,000 each for remuneration to Hon. W. Chatham, D.P.W., and to Mr. Bruce Shepherd, Land Officer, on account of work done by them in connection with the Praya Reclamation.

The vote was agreed to.

COMPENSATION FOR SLAUGHTER OF COWS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$6,050.55 for compensation on the valuation of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, for the slaughter of Kennedy's cows and destruction of utensils, &c., necessitated by the recent outbreak of disease:—

32 sick cows and bulls @ \$100 each =	\$3,200.00
1 healthy calf =	\$ 75
1 " cow =	300
1 " " =	300
1 " calf =	100
1 " cow =	350
1 " " =	375
5 " calves =	600
4 " " =	300
	2,400.00
Utensils, foodstuff, &c.,	= 450.55

Total... .. \$6,050.55

The CHAIRMAN explained that on account of an outbreak of disease in the dairy the whole lot of the cows had to be slaughtered. Under the Ordinance the compensation for each cow was limited to \$100, but it was proposed to pay rather more in respect of the cows that were not attacked by disease and yet had to be killed.

The vote was passed.

COMPENSATION VOTE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$6.50 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, being compensation to Mr. See Kok Shan, executor of See Sang Kai, deceased, for the resumption of Inland Lot No. 509.

The vote was passed.

FILLING-IN A SWAMP.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$3,000 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, for filling in and draining the swamp near the Starling Inlet Police Station and forming a catchwater drain round the hill which borders the area.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS stated that apart from sanitary considerations this improvement would provide the police with a level piece of ground for parade, exercise, etc.

The vote was approved.

LIGHTHOUSE EXPENSES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$3,600 in aid of the vote Harbour Master's Department, Lighthouse, under Other Charges, for the following:—

Value of the apparatus for converting fixed lights at Cape D'Aguilar and Green Island, £300 @ 1/8 = \$3,600.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS stated in reply to a question by H.E. General Hatton that the Cape D'Aguilar lighthouse was to be abolished altogether. The apparatus mentioned was for converting a fixed into an occulting light.

The vote was passed.

The was all the business.

JAPAN DURING THE WAR.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Tokyo, 27th February.

Certain signs point to the fact that the authorities have ceased to despatch troops from the metropolitan and northern provinces for the front, but how far these may be taken as indicating the true position of affairs it is impossible to say, so great is the secrecy in which the Imperial Government envelops all its actions and intentions. The traveller approaching Tokyo from the South during the last two weeks cannot have failed to notice the immense number of flags that lined the railway, with long strings of hanging paper lanterns, showing a red sun, or perhaps an Union Jack, on their sides, with here and there a triumphal arch of green. Or at night every passing train would be saluted with a waving of straw torches, and blazing bonfires, and, day and night alike, crowds of people shouting their national cry of *Banzai*. Along this decorated route passed many times daily, all bound to the South, train-loads of soldiers and horses, with waggons of stores and munitions of war. Or, maybe, occasionally a train would steam out of a suburban station, played away by a band performing the National Anthem *Kimigayo*, containing perhaps some General or even an Imperial Prince, and it is an excellent illustration of the closeness of the Government when it is considered that it was never possible to ascertain the identity of the personage thus grandly sped. But yesterday, with the exception of a solitary flag or arch here and there, all the decorations had disappeared, leaving the country as it was before, whilst a rumour went the rounds that the usual train-service was about to be resumed. Of thirty-five trains that ran between Yokohama and the capital only five had been permitted to ply, and of the five that connected Tokyo and Kobe, two had now to sustain all the traffic. Thus it will be seen that roughly two-thirds of the train-service has been requisitioned for the transporting of troops. It is quite impossible to estimate the quantity, even if it were permissible, and a guess formed on a calculation of the number of troops who would occupy two-thirds of the ordinary train service would have to be supplemented by another speculation on the number shipped from the southern islands of Kinshiu and Shikoku and the south-western provinces of the main island. For purposes of transporting troops to Corea, masses of steamers have been chartered from the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Osaka Shosen Kaisha, &c., and now that fear of the Russian fleet is practically nil, they are able to cross with ease and impunity.

The Japanese have besides two very perfectly equipped hospital ships, both of which are already on the scene of action, and with these and their fleet of transports, and the Russian inability to seriously hamper their movements, there can be no difficulty in landing all the stores and munitions required.

Now let us look at what may be presumed as the Russian arrangements. In the first place they cannot take up any position of defence near the sea-coast with their fleet *hors de combat*, as this would place them open to a combined attack from the Japanese by sea and land. Port Arthur is the one exception, and in holding that place there is an element of weakness, as it will be absolutely necessary to maintain a line of communication with the main body of the defence, and this may make it possible for the Japanese to deliver a flank attack which will isolate the Gibraltar of the East. The Viceroy, Admiral Alexieff, is supposed to be in Harbin. General Kuropatkin it is understood, on his arrival will make his headquarters at Liaoyang. The line of defence must thus extend over 800 miles from Liaoyang, through Moukden, Kirin, and Harbin, to the Amur or to Vladivostok. However many millions of men Russia may manage to put in the field, they will necessarily be extended over an enormous length, and probably in this their vulnerability lies. We may presume each of the above chief points, being all of strategic importance, will be garrisoned by, say, 200,000 men. The Japanese with an even number may attempt to break

through the line, a contingency that will be disastrous to the Russians. It must be remembered that while the latter have an enormous length of front, they are at an infinitely greater distance from their base of supply than their opponents; they are haunted with the nightmare of Chinese and Tartar brigands tearing up the railway, and the menacing neutrality of China. It will also be necessary to keep up guards along the whole eastern length of the Siberian railway. If that is destroyed they are practically cut off from European Russia, to which they have the one single rail.

Now to contrast the Japanese and Russian nations. Japan may be a rich country, but when one considers the enormous drain on her resources, it is difficult at first to see how she can maintain the present war to a successful conclusion. Great quantities of flour and tinned provisions have been purchased from Europe and America, the sellers demanding gold or produce in payment. This is very reasonable, because when a country is on the verge of war with another one does not like to have accounts with her hanging over too long. But this is not the time of year when produce can be procured. The season for tea and silk is later in the year, and rice is entirely out of the question, as it forms the staple food of the nation, and there is never very much over for purposes of trade. So payments must necessarily have been made in gold, which thus must have been going out of the country in huge quantities. Where, then, will Japan get the wherewithal to prosecute the war? The answer to this question is one that cannot but cause astonishment to Europeans, for it will be met in a manner little dreamed of and never, we believe, put into actual use before. For many hundred years the ancient feudal families of Japan, from the nobles to those whose claim to distinction was merely their richness, have reserved a treasure of gold and jewels, that, dedicated to the nation, was only to be used in a national contingency. As silver has only been introduced into Japan in very modern times, it can only form a very small item in a total whose publication will astound the world. With elaborate ceremonies the treasure was concealed in some sacred hiding place, which was only opened from time to time to receive more gold or jewels. This Sacred Treasure is now being unearthed by the representatives of the old feudal houses, and must amount to some hundred millions of pounds sterling. Besides all this, the women of Japan, following the lead of their Empress, are pouring into the hands of those officials trusted with the war fund priceless jewels and ancient heirlooms. There is a splendid patriotism that must appeal very much to our minds in this willing giving up of such a treasure, the more that it is quite unconscious on their part, they are merely doing what their traditions tell them to do; they have not even a word in the language that expresses what we mean by patriotism. In commemoration of this "reserve fund," when the imperial orders of knighthood were instituted some years ago one held in high esteem was styled the order of the Sacred Treasure, a tacit recognition on the part of the powers that be to the ancient nobility of their appreciation for an act whose ultimate end is both noble and artistic. Because the Japanese do not put out flags and such like decorations, and cheer everything on every available occasion without an official hint, it has been said that all their enthusiasm is artificial. But the Japanese are a dignified race who have never been in the habit of expressing their feelings in this way, and it is therefore a matter of no wonder that they do not yet comport themselves in a way that their officials, in their zeal to be up to date and in line with European nations, are able to see carried out without the hint. And when one thinks of the Sacred Treasure, there is surely little room for doubt as to the genuineness of their national enthusiasm.

In great contrast, let us turn to the Russians. When Alexander II. issued his proclamation giving freedom to all the serfs, the intention was good, but unfortunately was not carried out in the issue. The Russian peasant but exchanged serfdom for slavery, and where does the difference come in? Freed from the bondage to his hereditary lord and master, he fell into the toils of the money-lenders, who were in many cases those rich *parvenus* who had purchased the old manors, and then ground

out every kopeck from his miserable tenants. The result of all this is a starving and discontented peasantry, and a murmuring and rebellious middle class, even sympathised with by the nobles in part. Money that should have relieved the dreadful state of necessity in which some, or indeed the greater part, of the peasantry had fallen, was devoted to advancing ambitious and unrighteous schemes in the Far East. In is little wonder that Socialism, and such like doctrines whose essence are of necessity a menace to an autocratic and utterly selfish system of government, were eagerly welcomed and took deep root in the hearts of a people ignorant and wretched. And so, with a war on her hands in the Far East, which has commenced disastrously for her, troubles in the Middle and Near East, and a population who need but a little to drive them into upheaval, Russia is little to be envied at the present time. What the result of the war will be none can say. Perhaps it does not mean so much for Russia, provided she can control her people through it; it will be but a page, probably a dark one, in her history, but for Japan it is a turning-point, a battle of life and death on which her very existence as a nation—not as a Power or Great Power—hangs. An eastern nation for the first time since the days of the Romans has met a western on equal terms. There are some who would have preferred to see Russia receive well merited punishment at the hands of a European instead of an Asiatic country; but whatever happens, the attitude of Japan has been one worthy of high praise since the beginning of the negotiations, now so unhappily terminated. Russian procrastination was met with patience; it was only when she saw Russia purposely delaying in order to bring her army and fleet into a state calculated to successfully resist her that Japan at last struck the blow on whose issue hang everything that can make her existence as a nation good. The Tsar has placed his cause in the hands of God; there let it rest. What man can tell the end?

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

A very showy *Rhododendron* known under the name of *Rhododendron phœniceum* may now be seen in flower growing on the bank immediately above the Upper Albert Road, where it is represented by several fine specimens. The flowers are about three inches across, mauve in colour and produced in great numbers. This plant is supposed by some to be a native of China, although it has never been found wild, while others regard it as a garden hybrid. In any case it is a very desirable shrub for a garden, but care should be taken to plant it in such a position that the colour of its flowers does not clash with that of other plants. It goes very well, however, with white or yellow flowers.

The exceedingly dry winter which we have just experienced is, no doubt, in a great way responsible for the very fine display of flower on *Hiptage Madagascariensis* just now. One specimen of this plant may be seen in the large bed towards the lower end of the Albany Rd., in the new garden, and another in the statue-plot in the old garden. The flowers are about an inch across, four of the petals being white while the fifth is marked with yellow. They are borne in short racemes in great profusion in the axils of the leaves. This species is a native of the East Indies, including Hongkong, and has been known in cultivation for more than a hundred years.

There are general orchids in flower in the No. 2 house at the present time, including one with flowers of a colour very seldom seen. This is *Cælogyne pandurata*, a native of Malaya, and the colour of the flowers is green and black. The individual flowers are about three inches across, and are produced on scapes in the young growths.

In the same house is a specimen of the Flamingo Plant, *Anthurium scherseriaum*, bearing over a dozen spathes. This plant is a native of Guatemala and belongs to the Arum family.

The monkeys, which have recently proved so great an attraction to visitors, have had their numbers increased by the kind presentation from Mr. S. W. Moore of two fine Luzon specimens.

CHINA ASSOCIATION.

HONGKONG BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held on the 17th inst. in the Chamber of Commerce Room, City Hall. Mr. R. C. Wilcox (Chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. G. W. F. Playfair, D. R. Law, H. E. Tomkins, A. G. Wood, E. S. Whealler and C. Pemberton (hon. secretary), committee; Messrs. G. L. Tomlin, A. Forbes, G. H. Dunn, Hon. Gershom Stewart, Messrs. J. R. Michael, H. E. R. Hunter, Murray Stewart, A. J. Raymond, G. C. Moxon, C. H. Thompson, W. G. Humphreys, and E. W. Mitchell.

The Hon. SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—I propose with your leave that the report and statement of accounts be taken as read. Before addressing myself to the business of the day, I desire, on behalf of the Committee, to express our great regret at the circumstances that have placed me in the chair to-day. I allude to the enforced resignation by Mr. Playfair of the Chairmanship owing to the affection of his eyesight. This is I am glad to say, much improved already, but he will need to be careful for some time not to tax it unnecessarily, and has given us plainly to understand that he will not be able to resume the duties he discharged so efficiently. I am sure we are all very much indebted to Mr. Playfair for the able manner in which he has conducted the business of the Association during a period of a year and a half. (Applause.) I do not wish to inflict a long speech upon you, but there are some points in the Committee's report upon which I propose to touch and to which, owing to receipt of advices from London since it was compiled, I can add some particulars. I would first, however, like to record our indebtedness to Mr. James Scott, our late Consul-General at Canton, for the unfailing courtesy which has always marked his relations with the Association and the sleepless energy with which he guarded British interests. (Hear, hear.) We only hope that the Association will find in the future equally able, equally zealous, and equally patriotic coadjutors among the members of the British Consular staff. (Applause.) The British Representatives in Kwangtung can do much to serve British interests if they are not too closely wedded to red tape, and can help the Association most effectively if they are so inclined. Mr. Scott took that course, and the Association found it a pleasure to work with him. British trade in the Two Kwang is always menaced, more or less, by insidious attempts on the part of the native officials to hamper it by imposing new duties or creating fresh obstructions. Thanks to the prompt measures taken by Mr. Scott and Sir Ernest Satow several such attempts were defeated last year. Further similar attempts to create fresh sources of revenue for hungry mandarins will assuredly be made, and it is necessary for our Consular Authorities to be constantly on the alert, and for this Association to be equally vigilant to warn, to aid, or to back up their representations. Since our last meeting we have scored an important success in securing the opening of eight new ports of call on the West River, which has led to a considerable development of trade on that waterway. Kongmoon was also opened to foreign trade on the 7th inst. and excellent results may be expected to result from that concession. So far, Nanning, on the West River, which was to have been made a treaty port, has not been opened, and the British Government appear to be in some doubt whether this concession is worth pressing for, probably because it is not as yet accessible by steamer. I think, however, that the position of Nanning as a distributing centre and the head of the junk traffic on the West River, makes it of sufficient importance to justify agitation for its eventual constitution as a treaty port, and it is too early yet to abandon the idea

of being able to ascend the river to that point in flat-bottomed light draft stern-wheel steamers, at any rate for a portion of the year. At the same time it cannot be denied that the accounts of those who have ascended the river from Wuchow to Nanning agree in describing the country as poor, thinly populated, and only partially cultivated even where cultivable. Of infinitely more importance to this Colony would be the opening of Waichow as a Treaty Port. This city is the chief centre of trade on the East River and lies in the midst of a fertile and populous country. It is accessible by a good native road or path from the head of Mirs Bay, and it could easily be placed in railway communication with Kowloon, by way of Shamchun and Shekloong. In December last your Committee addressed a letter on this subject to the London Office, who forwarded it on to the Foreign Office. A reply has come to hand, since the report was printed, in which it is pointed out that His Majesty's Government can hardly press for this concession as it forms part of the consideration to be granted by the Chinese Government in return for the payment of the surtax under Art. VIII. of the Treaty of 1902, but that the British Minister at Peking will be requested to urge upon the Chinese Ministers the desirability of opening the port without further delay unless he is of opinion that there is no likelihood of their entertaining the proposal. I trust that the Chinese Government will prove to be more inclined to promote progress than has hitherto been the case, since it is evident that the concession must be voluntary on their part—at least for the present. Important as the opening of Waichow is likely to prove to Hongkong, however, the question pales into insignificance beside that of the construction of the Kowloon-Canton Railway. (Applause.) It was fondly imagined when the concession for this project was obtained some five or six years ago (I see Lord Percy says it was signed on the 28th March, 1899) by a British Syndicate that steps would promptly be taken to carry it into effect. These anticipations have not been fulfilled. The Syndicate with unaccountable apathy have kept their talent wrapped in a napkin, until public opinion both here and in the United Kingdom has found earnest expression against their delay, and even the Chinese (with whom procrastination is a second nature) are asking why if the Syndicate did not mean to utilise it they troubled to obtain the concession. Our late Governor, Sir Henry Blake, spoke out most impressively on this subject, when bidding the community farewell, and your Committee have not failed to follow up his suggestions. When writing on the subject of the opening of Waichow, the question of railway communication was gone into at some length, and a suggestion made for some subsidy, grant, or guarantee for that portion of the line passing through British territory. Copies of this letter were also handed to the Colonial Government and to the British and Chinese Corporation, by whom it is now being considered. I hope they will consider it to good purpose. You will observe in to-day's *Daily Press* a telegram stating that the German railway has been opened to Tsinanfu. What the Germans do we ought to be able to do. I understand that the Colonial Government have made representations on the subject to Downing Street, and I note that Earl Percy (Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs), replying to a question on the subject in the House of Commons on the 10th inst., stated that the matter was receiving very careful attention from the Government. But while there are these reassuring indications that the question is at last receiving some attention, it will not do for this Association to rest on their oars and be satisfied. It will be necessary to watch this matter ceaselessly and never lose an opportunity of pressing for immediate action. The colonists of Hongkong cannot afford to accept mere assurances on a subject so vitally affecting their interests; they should never rest content until they see the tunnels being driven through the Kowloon hills, and the track being laid from the Kowloon terminus. (Applause.) Turning to another question of local interest, name-

ly the grave violation of the King's sovereignty involved in the ruthless murder of the schoolmaster, Yeung Kue Man, in Gage Street in September, 1900, the facts of which were disclosed at the trial of one of the assassins last May in the Supreme Court, you will observe by the appendix that the Committee did not fail to make representations on the subject, through the London Office, to the Imperial Government. No answer has, so far, been received from the Foreign Office, but we hear from the Colonial Government that the question is still engaging attention, and that the Government may be relied upon to take proper action in the circumstances. The Committee hope therefore that such steps have been taken as will prevent the repetition of acts that are calculated, while lowering British prestige, to terrorise the native population of this Colony and cause them to lose confidence in the protective power of the British flag. On the question of the maintenance of Foreign Post Offices in China, some correspondence has passed, and we have made strong recommendations that, while deprecating a resort to the methods adopted by France in opening Post Offices where there are practically no French interests, the British Government should not surrender any sign or symbol of authority or influence in China unless other Powers were prepared to follow suit. Curiously enough, we have since received advices from the London Office stating that on this question they had again addressed the Foreign Office, suggesting that the Hongkong postage stamps should be surcharged with the names of the Treaty Ports just as the French have done with the Indo-China stamps. This is the action we deprecated, and we thought we had been very explicit in the matter. You will see by the correspondence that we have been. The continued occupation of Newchwang by the Russian authorities, and their interference with the trade of that port has led to the interchange of much correspondence, and excited a great deal of just indignation on the part of those engaged in trade with this Chinese Treaty Port. I do not propose to travel over the ground again, for time will not permit. The Association has protested, the Chambers of Commerce have protested, the Foreign Office have protested, but so far with no result beyond the receipt of suave assurances from the Russian Government. The latest of these, received by Lord Lansdowne on the 8th January, was quoted in the House of Commons by Earl Percy on the 8th ult., and is to the following effect:—"In order to prevent all misunderstanding and misconstruction, Russia considers it indispensable, independently of the conditions which will in the future definitely determine the character of her relations with Manchuria, to declare from this day forth that she has no intention whatever of placing any obstacle in the way or the continued enjoyment by Foreign Powers of the rights acquired by them in virtue of the Treaties now in force." If only we could repose any trust in such assurances! Unfortunately we have listened too often to similar utterances, which are made apparently for one purpose—to gain time. These tactics precipitated hostilities if they did not cause the present war. When that struggle comes to an end it will be the duty of the Treaty Powers to see that their rights in Manchurian Treaty ports are secured, and that no interference with Chinese control is permitted in the future. (Applause.) I regret to have to record that on the important matter of the currency in China no progress has been made during the past year. The Peking Government have engaged to put their currency on a proper basis, and it is most decidedly in their interest to do so; but in this, as in everything in China, delay must be expected. As you will remember, in January we despatched a telegram to Mr. Chamberlain expressing our sympathy with his efforts to bring about a reform in the fiscal tariff so as to obtain something more like reciprocal treatment of British products and manufactures by foreign States. That telegram was followed up by a letter, which is published in the appendix to the report before you. We took advantage of the occasion to point

out to the ex-Colonial Secretary that even here, in this free port, British industries and undertakings were suffering by reason of the prohibitive tariffs of neighbouring States and the heavy subsidies made to foreign lines of steamers, which are thus enabled to compete unfairly with local shipping on the coast and in the rivers of South China. I refrain from going into detail here, but this is one of the questions of the future which will have to be agitated. It is interesting to note the present attitude of the Government on this question, which cropped up in the House of Commons on the 8th ult. Earl Percy, replying to an amendment moved to the Address by Mr. Walton, who maintained that it was the duty of the Government to maintain or increase British trade, said:—"So long as the country adhered to its present fiscal policy that was not only not the duty of the British Government, but it was a duty not in their power to discharge." He went on to intimate, in most unmistakable language, that unless the Government changed its fiscal policy and more or less adopted that of foreign countries in giving subsidies, drawbacks, and preferences, they could only see that an open door to trade was kept and not a door that was occasionally ajar. I think, however, gentlemen, that the time is coming when British trade will require something more than this, that it will need to be placed on fair and equal terms with that of other countries, and if those countries endeavour to foster their shipping or their manufactures by subsidies or bounties, we shall, in self-defence, have to ask our Government to at least impose extra tonnage or light dues on subsidised shipping or a special tax on bountified manufactures in order to place them on an equality with our own ships or goods. (Applause.) I think there is nothing more that I can usefully add, and will simply propose that the report and accounts before you be now adopted. (Applause.)

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—I have very much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. The report came into my hands about two days ago, and when Mr. Wilcox asked me to second the motion for its adoption I hardly thought I would have time to know very much about what the Association has been doing. However, I am glad to say that when I opened the report and began to read it, the subject-matter of which it treated was of such interest that I read it right through without once putting it down. I congratulate the committee on the useful work they have done, especially since the latter half of 1903, when they have actively tackled several very important subjects. The three which occur to me as the most interesting are the occupation of Newchwang by the Russians in violation of all pledges and treaties, the construction of the railway between here and Canton, and the opening of Waichow. With regard to the first, I feel that protests such as ours will carry considerable weight with our Home Government, especially at a moment such as the present. It seems to me that, although our country has taken no active steps to vindicate its treaty rights openly, protests such as that which has been sent forward by this committee will strengthen them in their determination to support to the utmost of their ability what our allies are endeavouring now by all the efforts in their power to secure—free and open rights in Manchuria to all traders. (Applause.) With regard to the construction of the railway, I do not know enough about it to express an opinion about the deviation of route which the committee's letter of 12th December recommends. But I am heartily glad to see that the committee have addressed themselves to the British and Chinese Corporation upon the subject of this long hung-up concession. I am of opinion that failing every other means of making that railway it would be a sound thing for this Colony to guarantee a moderate interest on the cost of construction. In any case the amount the Colony would be liable for would not be very great, and if the railway prospered the guarantee of a certain interest might never be called up; and I consider that even in the event of a small debit in the first year or two the prospects of a fair revenue from that railway are extremely good—(applause)—because the

Canton delta is, as we all know, both fertile and populous. In regard to the opening of Waichow, that is a thing that I hope the committee will always bear in mind and, if the railway is brought into the field of practical politics, will press for. (Applause.) It seems from all accounts to be necessary as a link in the railway between Kowloon and Canton, which if taken in the way the committee recommend would not interfere with the great interests we have in our steamers on the waterway, and would render it impossible for anybody else to develop any port on the banks of the river against this port. (Applause.) I was very pleased to see that the committee in their letter of 12th December quoted the weighty words which Sir Henry Blake gave on his going away on this subject, and I am very glad to see that the Officer Administering the Government (page 25 of this report) has taken the matter specially under his control; at least he has brought all the influence he has got to bear on that point. I think we are not unduly sanguine when we think that with all these different influences brought to bear on it, this railway will be made to go ahead by some means or other. (Applause.) Well, gentlemen, after reading these letters I felt that the committee were fortunate in having their views put forward in such a thoughtful and lucid way as the Chairman has done. With regard to the accounts we are in a very happy position; money is coming in and very little going out. The account is mostly on one side. I have no doubt that as our balance increases we will find some useful means of utilising it. (Applause.) With these remarks, I have very much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The next business was the election of a Committee.

Mr. G. L. TOMLIN moved that the present committee be re-elected *en bloc* as follows:—Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, D. R. Law, H. E. Tomkins, G. W. F. Playfair, A. G. Wood, E. S. Whealler, and W. J. Saunders.

Mr. E. W. MITCHELL seconded, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

This was all the public business.

The report of the Committee is as follows:—

The last report was issued on the 30th September, 1902; and the present review is intended to cover the period from that date to the 31st January, 1904. The questions which have occupied the attention of the committee have not been of so momentous a character as those dealt with in some previous years, but some important subjects have been handled, with gratifying results in several cases, while as regards others it is hoped that the seed sown will ultimately bear fruit. The following are the chief questions that have come before the committee:—

INTERNAL TAXATION OF FOREIGN IMPORTS.

During the period under review, several attempts have been made by the provincial authorities in the Two Kwang to impose new taxes on imports, and more especially on prepared opium. Thanks, however, to the energetic action of Consul-General Scott, whose representations were heartily seconded by your committee, these efforts failed, and the proposed taxes were withdrawn. For the present the energies of the mandarins in this direction have slackened; but a strict watch will be necessary to check the first attempt to impose new unauthorised taxes.

OPENING OF PORTS OF CALL ON THE WEST RIVER.

Eight ports of call have been opened on the West River—a valuable concession due in no small degree to the urgent representations of this association. The trade in the West River is showing an encouraging development.

THE STUDY OF PRACTICAL CHINESE.

On the representation of the association of the excellent work done by the Department of Practical Chinese in the University of London, the Colonial Government have been induced to make a grant-in-aid of £30 to this object, for which the thanks of the association are due to H.E. Sir Henry Blake.

VIOLATION OF BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY IN HONGKONG.

In May last, consequent on the revelations made in the Supreme Court, during

the trial of a Chinese named Lui Chin, as accessory in the murder of a Chinese schoolmaster named Yeung Kue Wan, at his house in Gage Street, by shooting him with a revolver, the committee addressed a letter to the London office, asking them to lay the facts before the Foreign Office. The evidence adduced showed clearly that four men, tempted by the offer of a large monetary reward and official rank made by the Cantonese Government, arranged to assassinate Yeung Kue Wan, who belonged to the Chinese Reform Party, and accomplished their purpose on the 10th January, 1901, but the prisoner was not arrested until two years later. In the result he was found guilty, sentenced, and executed. The committee, however, urged that reparation for the flagrant violation of the King's Sovereignty committed should be strenuously demanded. The matter was laid before the Foreign Office by the London branch, and a copy of the letter sent by this committee to the Colonial Government for transmission to the Secretary of State; but up to the present no answer has been received from the Foreign Office.

FOREIGN POST OFFICES IN CHINA.

An inquiry having been addressed to the association in London, from the Board of Trade, as to whether further ports of call were necessary in the P. & O. S. N. Co.'s itinerary for the purpose of facilitating the delivery of the mails in China, the question of the maintenance of Post Offices in Chinese treaty ports by Foreign Powers was raised, and some correspondence has passed thereon. Your committee expressed the opinion that, while they did not wish to recommend the methods adopted by some Powers for thus extending their influence, they deemed it desirable that British officials should be careful not to surrender any sign or symbol of authority now possessed in the treaty ports. It is satisfactory to record that the British Government has taken note of this expression of opinion, and so far from reducing the number of British postal agencies, has recently added a fresh one at Chefoo.

THE OPENING OF KONGMOON.

The port of Kongmoon was to be formally opened to foreign trade on the 7th March, and Mr. H. H. Fox has been appointed British Consular agent.

THE PROPOSED OPENING OF WAICHOW.

It having been reported last autumn that the Chinese had no intention of opening Waichow to foreign trade, as under the conditions of Section 12 of Art. VIII of the Mackay Treaty this could only be claimed when that Article came into force, a letter was in December last addressed to the London branch urging them, for reasons set out at length, to ask the Foreign Office to press for this concession at the same time that Kongmoon was opened. A copy of this letter was forwarded to the Foreign Office, and another was transmitted by the Hong Kong Government to the Colonial Office, accompanied with a strong recommendation in favour thereof, but up to date no reply has been received from Downing Street.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION IN KWANGTUNG.

At the same time the association made a forcible representation on the subject of the delay in proceeding with the construction of the projected Canton-Kowloon Railway, and offered some suggestions as to the route to be traversed, also recommending the construction of a branch from Sheklung to Waichow. A copy of this letter was also despatched by the London office to the British and Chinese Corporation, who hold the concession for laying the Kowloon-Canton line; and it has been considered by the directorate, with what result we have yet to learn. Your committee do not intend to lose sight of this most important question, which is, they are glad to know, receiving the strong and sympathetic support of the Colonial Government.

THE OCCUPATION OF NEWCHWANG BY THE RUSSIANS.

The continued occupation of the treaty port of Newchwang by the Russians, and their active interference with its trade by collecting the Customs and port dues, imposing quarantine regulations, and in other ways treating it as conquered territory, has greatly exercised the association during the past year, and several appeals to the Foreign Office to interfere on behalf of the British interests

assailed have been made. So far, however, these appeals and all representations from Downing Street to St. Petersburg consequent thereon have been unproductive of result. Now that hostilities have broken out between Russia and Japan, the question appears likely to be settled in the meantime by the retirement of the Russian troops in occupation of the port, but it is to be hoped that in any future negotiations Great Britain and other Treaty Powers will rigidly insist upon Newchwang being restored to its original position as a Chinese treaty port, and left in the undisturbed control of Peking.

OMISSIONS FROM THE U.S. TREATY WITH CHINA.

A letter having been addressed to the Foreign Office—in which this branch concurred—pointing out certain omissions in the Commercial Treaty between the United States and China with regard to the allocation of the surtax to the Provincial Chinese Governments to compensate for the loss of *lekin* which is arranged for in the British Treaty, and the absence of any agreement about the excise to be levied on machine-made yarn, cloth, or other products of foreign type in China, a reply has been received pointing out that the fact that the United States Government have not stipulated for all the conditions attached to those engagements by Great Britain need not necessarily be taken as indicating that they attribute no importance to the points referred to by the association.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S SCHEME FOR TARIFF REFORM.

In January of this year, in response to suggestions, the committee considered the advisability of despatching a telegram expressing approval of and sympathy with the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain in his efforts to promote reform in the fiscal policy of the United Kingdom, and obtained the views of the members by circular. The proposal was endorsed by nearly all the members, only two voting against it. The following telegram was accordingly despatched on the 13th January:—"Large majority members Hongkong Branch China Association warmly support your fiscal aims. Consider reciprocal treaties absolutely necessary, failing which recommend adoption retaliation." A letter confirming the telegram was mailed on the 14th January, and copies of same were forwarded to the London branch of the association and to the Colonial Secretary, for the information of the Governor of Hongkong. A letter has been received from Mr. Chamberlain's private secretary acknowledging receipt of the telegram.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

On the departure, in February, 1904, of Mr. Playfair to England, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., who had accepted a seat on the committee, was elected acting chairman, but after holding office for about a month Mr. Pollock resigned, on the ground that the performance of the duties clashed with his professional interests. Mr. R. C. Wilcox thereupon took up the reins and acted as chairman until Mr. Playfair's return; and when soon afterwards that gentleman was obliged, through an affection of the eyes, to resign the post, Mr. Wilcox was unanimously elected chairman.

THE COMMITTEE.

There have been several changes in the personnel of the Committee during the period under review. Mr. Poate, who has left the Colony, has been replaced by Mr. D. R. Law; the Hon. C. S. Sharp by Mr. A. G. Wood; Mr. Medhurst, who has gone home for a trip, has been succeeded by Mr. E. S. Whealler; and the Hon. R. Shewan by Mr. W. Saunders. The Committee now consists of Messrs R. C. Wilcox (Chairman), D. R. Law, G. W. F. Playfair, W. J. Saunders, H. E. Tomkins, E. S. Whealler, A. G. Wood, and C. Pemberton (Hon. Secretary).

The Accounts.—The Hon. Secretary's accounts show a credit balance in hand of \$1,173.21.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Chairman.

The *N.-C. Daily News* Tokyo correspondent says that at the Japanese General Election, the so-called Neutral Party has made a considerable increase, at the expense of the *Meiyukai*. The Government has remained indifferent, but the result is decidedly favourable.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LD

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-sixth annual general meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents on Thursday, the 24th inst.:

The general agents beg to submit to shareholders their report on the company's business for the year 1903, with a statement of accounts to 31st December last.

There was a steady demand for refined sugar in consuming markets throughout the year, and the sum at debit on 1st January, 1903, has been reduced from \$438,232.99 to \$147,717.30 or a gain on working of \$290,515.69.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. D. M. Moses resigned his seat on his departure from the colony, and Mr. E. Shellim was invited to join the board in his place. The committee now consists of Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, A. G. Wood, and E. Shellim, who offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thomas Arnold and W. Hutton Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents

Hongkong, 4th March, 1904.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

Paid-up capital	\$ 2,000,000.00
Sundry creditors	883,589.18
	\$3,883,589.18

ASSETS.

Property account, consisting of—	
East Point refinery	512,262.05
Bowrington refinery	
Swatow refinery	
Hongkong distillery	
Cash	833.18
Raw and refined sugar	1,205,105.52
Spirits and rum, &c.	5,533.51
Charcoal, coal, stores, &c.	271,126.06
Sundry debtors	284,175.47
Shipments	\$692,332.20
Less advances	266,496.14
	425,836.06

Balance of profit and loss account	\$3,745,871.88
	147,717.30
	\$3,883,589.18

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To balance of profit and loss account brought forward from last year	\$ 438,232.99
To commission	25,084.41
To remuneration to consulting committee	2,500.00
To auditors' fees	750.00
To interest	33,859.40
	\$500,426.80

By gain on working	\$ 352,709.50
By balance	147,717.30
	\$500,426.80

PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

To balance at debit on 31st December, 1903	\$ 1,539,194.35
To new buildings and machinery	3,067.70
	\$1,542,262.05

By balance at date	\$ 1,542,262.05
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LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO. LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-second annual general meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, on Thursday, the 24th inst.:

The general agents beg to submit a statement of accounts for the year to the 31st December last.

There being no outlet for the refinery's sugars, it remained silent during the whole of the year under review, and the general agents regret that there is no prospect at present of resuming work. Meanwhile current expenses are being kept as low as possible, consistent with proper care of the machinery and buildings.

Inclusive of \$62,363.31 brought forward from the year 1902, the balance at debit is \$73,905.88, which is carried forward to next account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

This consists of Mr. J. H. Lewis and Mr. A. J. Wood, who offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thomas Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

Hongkong, 4th March, 1904.

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital account	700,000.00
Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s current account	29,787.08
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	10,065.29
Sundry creditors	683.93
	\$740,536.30

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Property account	629,642.43
Cash	289.91
Coal, charcoal, stores, &c.	35,258.08
Fire insurance account, 1904	1,440.00
	\$666,630.42
Profit and loss account	73,905.88
	\$740,536.30

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To balance from last year	\$ 62,363.31
To salaries, wages, fire insurance, &c.	9,563.09
To interest	1,929.48
To auditor's fee	50.00
	\$73,905.88
By balance	\$73,905.88

CHINA-BORNEO CO., LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the first ordinary yearly meeting to be held at the office of the Company, at noon, on the 19th March:

Gentlemen,—The General Manager and Consulting Committee beg to present to the shareholders the first ordinary yearly report of the Company.

The accounts show a profit of ... \$50,093.64
From this has to be deducted:—
Fees to Consulting Committee... 4,000.00

Leaving available for appropriation \$46,093.64
The Consulting Committee recommend that a dividend of 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital be paid to shareholders ... 27,600.00
To write off launches and lighters ... 4,000.00
" " timber concessions ... 4,502.04
" " preliminary expenses ... 9,991.60
\$46,093.64

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

On the formation of the Company, the Honourable Sir Paul Chater, Kt., C.M.G., Messrs. A. G. Wood, E. Osborne and J. Whealey consented to form the Committee, and their appointment requires confirmation.

AUDITOR.

The accounts under review have been audited by Mr. W. H. Potts; his appointment also requires confirmation.

J. WHEALEY,
General Manager.

Hongkong, 8th March, 1904.

LIABILITIES.

Capital—	\$ c.
60,000 shares each \$12	\$720,000.00
Less 14,000 shares unissued each \$12	168,000.00
	552,000.00
Sundry creditors	9,141.46
Balance of working account	50,093.64
	\$611,235.10

ASSETS.

Goodwill	\$ 75,000.00
Hongkong saw-mills	75,000.00
Sandakan saw-mills	40,000.00
Talaga saw-mills	47,072.59
Plant	21,827.12
Steam launches and lighters	91,242.76
Sandakan engine works	18,405.54
House and office property	6,747.32
House and office furniture	1,994.27
Kudat pier	8,000.00
Sandakan slipway, cost of construction to date	5,623.79
Timber concessions	24,730.02
Sundry debtors	4,579.88
Preliminary expenses	9,991.60
Stock of rough and sawn timber, stores, material, &c.	91,707.04

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 11th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

WATKINS LD. v. L. D. HILLS.

This was an action in which Watkins Ltd., chemists, druggists, wine merchants, etc., carrying on business at 31, Queen's Road Central, sought an injunction to restrain Livingston D. Hills, lately employed by them as an assistant, from acting as assistant in the trade or business of a chemist, druggist, aerated water manufacturer, wine and spirit merchant, or perfumier in Hongkong. Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, solicitor), appeared for the plaintiff. Defendant was unrepresented.

Mr. Slade read the statement of claim, which was to the effect that defendant was a chemist, and was formerly an assistant in the employ of the plaintiff company and was now an assistant at The Pharmacy, 12, Queen's Road Central. By an agreement dated 20th December, 1901, made between the plaintiff company and the defendant for the consideration therein mentioned the defendant agreed to serve the plaintiff company as a general assistant in Hongkong or at any Treaty port of China or in the Philippine Islands for a term of five years commencing from the day of his landing in Hongkong. By clause 3 of that agreement defendant bound himself not to, at any time during the continuance of the said term or at any time thereafter, engage either directly or indirectly, either on his own account or as an assistant to any person or persons or company or companies in the trade or business of a chemist, druggist, dentist, aerated water manufacturer, wine and spirit merchant, or perfumier in Hongkong or at any Treaty port in China or in the Philippine Islands except for the benefit or with the written consent of the plaintiff company. Defendant arrived in this Colony in or about February, 1902, and continued to act in the capacity of general assistant to the plaintiff company until 20th October, 1903, when the plaintiff company dismissed him from their service for misconduct and neglect of duty. Since his dismissal defendant in breach of his agreement and without the consent of the plaintiff company had entered into the service of the firm carrying on business at 12, Queen's Road Central, as druggists and chemists, wine and spirit merchants and perfumiers, under the style of "The Pharmacy." Plaintiffs claimed they had been injured in their business by reason of the act of the defendant, and would continue to be injured unless the defendant was restrained from continuing to commit breaches of his agreement; they accordingly sought an injunction as described above.

His Lordship said there were a great many cases of this kind in the *Encyclopædia of Law*. These restrictions of trade must be reasonable. He supposed defendant's passage had been paid out?

Mr. Slade—Yes.

His Lordship—I think it is a reasonable thing that he should not be employed here; I think it is an unreasonable thing that he should not be employed in any Treaty port.

Mr. Slade—We are not asking for that, my Lord.

Mr. G. A. Watkins, of Watkins, Ltd. having given evidence,

His Lordship granted the injunction, restricted to Hongkong, with costs.

Saturday, 12th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

HO TUNG v. HO LUI SHAN.

Ho Tung applied for a receiving order to be made against Ho Lui Shan alias Nan Wing Chee. Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings, solicitor),

appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. Hurs thouse, of Messrs. Denny and Bowley solicitors), for the defendant.

From the affidavits of the plaintiff it appeared that defendant had borrowed \$8,000 from him, to be repaid in two yearly instalments of \$4,000 with interest at ten per cent. Certain rickshas belonging to the defendant were to be held as security by the plaintiff, and, under an agreement made between the two parties, plaintiff was to receive a one-half of the profits of the ricksha business carried on by defendant. \$4,000 interest had been paid, but no share of the profits of the business. Defendant said that he signed no agreement transferring a half-share of the business to plaintiff. He signed a blank paper, which was to be filled in by plaintiff, but he did not agree to give him a one-half share of the profits. He offered plaintiff the half share in the business for \$12,500. This plaintiff denied, and produced the agreement.

His Lordship appointed an interim receiver until a final order should be made, this receiver to keep and file accounts monthly in the Registry. If the partners could agree upon a receiver promptly, such receiver to be appointed; in default the Registrar was to nominate a receiver; a security of \$7,500 to be found by the receiver within one week of his appointment.

Monday, 14th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CLAIM TO A CROWN LEASE.

Chan Ut Chu and Pun Kon Shan brought an action against Chu Lee and Chu Ping in respect of the right to the ownership of a Crown lease on the old Praya. Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., barrister-at-law, and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. R. Harding, of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors), appeared for the defendants.

In their statement of claim the plaintiffs stated that Chan Ut Chu was compradore to Messrs. S. J. David & Co. and carried on business at 17 and 19, Lyndhurst Terrace; Pun Kon Shan was a merchant, carrying on business at 67 and 69, Queen's Road Central. Defendants were merchants carrying on business at 315 and 313, Des Voeux Road, and were sued as executors of one Chu Chuen deceased. By articles of agreement dated 5th October, 1889, between the Government and Chu Chuen, after reciting that Chu Chuen was Crown lessee of Marine Lot 53A, and that he had agreed to contribute the sum of \$12,759.54 for the cost of the reclamation in respect of Sections B and D of the lot, it was agreed between the parties that upon completion of the portion of the works in the area of reclamation described as Section 6 on the plan deposited in the Land Office pursuant to Section 7 of the Praya Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, and upon payment of the whole of this sum, the Governor would grant a Crown lease of all such portion of the reclamation provided for by the Ordinance as was delineated on the plan and coloured red for a term of 999 years. The part coloured red showed the reclamation appertaining to Sections Band D of Marine Lot 53A was an area of land which measured 5,853 square feet and extended right through the reclamation from front to back and had a frontage on the new Praya of 41 feet 6 in. The articles of agreement although they were nominally entered into by Chu Chuen in his own name and on his own behalf were in fact entered into on behalf of the owners of Sections B and D of the lot, and were so entered into in pursuance of the custom of the Hongkong Government in the case of reclamations which were made under the Ordinance of entering into such articles of agreement for reclamation with the Crown lessees of any lot in respect of which any reclamation had to be made. At the date of the articles one Yiu Chow was owner of Sections B and D of the lot, but Yiu Chow died on 21st May, 1893, and plaintiffs were now the

owners of Sections B and D, having acquired the same by purchase, under an indenture of assignment dated 12th September 1900, from one Lo Ah Sam, who was the executrix of one Kwok Kwai, executrix of Yiu Chow. By virtue of this assignment, which included a conveyance to the plaintiffs of all the estate, right, title and interest of Lo Ah Sam as executrix in the pieces of ground or extension seawards known or registered in the Land Office as the reclamation of Marine Lot 53A, the plaintiffs became entitled to that portion of the reclamation to the lot which was coloured red in the plan annexed to the articles of agreement. In the alternative plaintiffs said that, altogether apart from the articles of agreement, the plaintiffs, as owners of Sections Band D of the lot were entitled, upon the true construction of the Ordinance, to such proportion (from front to back) or the whole of the reclamation to Marine Lot 53A as the frontage of Sections B and D of this lot upon the old Praya roadway (now known as Des Voeux Road) bore to the whole frontage of the lot; that was to say, the plaintiffs were entitled to the area of land coloured red on the aforesaid plan. Chu Chuen died on 25th January, 1893, and probate of his will was on 7th January, 1899, granted to defendants as executors. The portion of the works in the area of reclamation described as Section 6 had been completed and the whole of the sum of \$12,759.54, being the cost of the reclamation in respect of Sections B and D, had been paid to the Government, namely \$11,164.60, by Chu Chuen or by defendants as his executors, and \$1,594.94 by plaintiffs. Plaintiffs were ready and willing to pay defendants the sum of \$11,164.60 with interest of 8 per cent. per annum from the respective dates on which the respective instalments were paid to the Government upon the plaintiffs being adjudged by the Court or admitted by the defendants to be entitled to the portion of the reclamation coloured red on the plan. Plaintiffs therefore claimed that a declaration be made by the Court that plaintiffs were entitled to the area of land marked red in the articles of agreement; that was to say, to such proportion (from front to back) of the whole of the reclamation to Marine Lot 53A as the frontage of plaintiffs' property, Sections A and D of the lot, upon the old Praya roadway (now known as Des Voeux Road) bore to the whole frontage of Marine Lot 53A upon the said roadway.

Defendants denied that the articles of agreement referred to were entered into on behalf of the owners of Sections B and D of Marine Lot 53A or that there was any custom of the Hongkong Government in the case of reclamations made under the Reclamation Ordinance, 1889, of entering into such articles of agreement with the Crown lessees of any lot in front of which reclamation had to be made for and on behalf of the sections or at all. Defendants did not admit that Yiu Chow was at any time the owner of sections B and D or that plaintiffs were now the owners. They also denied that Lo Ah Sam, executrix of Yiu Chow, had at any time any estate, right, title or interest in the pieces of ground or extension seawards known and registered in the Land Office as the reclamation to Marine Lot 53A, or that the plaintiff, by any indenture of assignment became entitled to any portion of the reclamation. They denied also that if plaintiffs were owners of sections B and D, which defendants did not admit, the plaintiffs were entitled upon the true construction of the Ordinance to any part of the reclamation to Marine Lot 53A. The owner at the date of the Ordinance of Sections B and D did not signify his acceptance of the portion of the land assigned to him on the plan in Sub-section 11 of Section 7 of the Ordinance mentioned, which portion of land was the area of land coloured red upon the plan annexed to the articles of agreement, or signify his intention of entering into an agreement with the Governor with respect thereof in the manner or within the time provided in Sub-sections 11 and 111 of Section 7 of the Ordinance. Defendants were in possession of the said portion of land. Defendants stated that they had paid the whole sum of \$12,759.54 and denied that plaintiffs had paid any part thereof.

Counsel addressed the Court and late in the afternoon an adjournment was made.

Installation of electric light, payments on account.....	12,989.26
Stock of linen, crockery and glassware, &c., as per inventory	42,696.48
Stock of wines, provisions, household sundries and stationery, as per inventories	36,821.09
Shares in public companies, as per last account.....	6,286.34
Licenses attaching to 1904	2,625.41
Value of steam launch, as per report	9,000.00
Less written off, as recommended in last report	1,000.00
	8,000.00
Sundry debtors	29,424.88
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation No. 2 account	3,189.00
Cash in hand	227.29
	\$1,167,004.63

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the six months ending 31st December, 1903.

Dr.	\$ c.
To bad debts and refunds.....	252.73
To Crown rent	478.89
To rates	2,832.38
To fire insurance	2,506.84
To debentures interest on \$500,000 at 3 per cent.....	15,000.00
To less returned on debentures held by the Company	6,946.35
	8,053.65
To interest account	516.66
To directors and auditors' fees	3,200.00
To balance, to be appropriated as follows:—	
To pay a dividend of 10 per cent. \$60,000.00	
To transfer to repairs and renewals account.....	10,000.00
To write off from value of furniture and fixtures	10,000.00
To write off from value of steam launch.....	1,000.00
To carry forward to new account	3,161.60
	84,161.60
	\$102,002.75

Cr.	\$ c.	\$ c.
By balance from 30th June, 1903	126,659.41	
Less dividend at 12 per cent.....	72,000.00	
Less transfer to repairs and renewals account	10,000.00	
Less written off furniture and fixture account	10,000.00	
Less transfer to special reserve fund against cost of installation of electric light.....	20,000.00	
Less written off steam launch.....	1,000.00	
	113,000.00	
		13,659.41
By rents of shops and offices, old building	\$6,820.00	
By rents of shops and offices, new building.....	2,550.00	
		9,370.00
By dividend on shares in public companies	484.00	
By scrip and transfer fees	39.00	
By bad debts recovered.....	25.85	
By profit on hotel working account for the six months ending 31st December, 1903	78,424.49	
		\$102,002.75

REPAIRS AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT

For the six months ending 31st December, 1903.

Dr.	\$ c.
To payments on account of repairs and renewals during the half-year ending 31st December, 1903	10,750.79
To balance.....	771.28
	\$11,522.07
Cr.	\$ c.
By balance from last account	1,522.07
By transfer from profit and loss account, as recommended in last report	10,000.00
	\$11,522.07

On the 1st March, Reuter wired that "The Liverpool collier *Oriel*, bound for Singapore, has been seized by the Russians, in the Red Sea." Since then the subject was dropped, and nothing more was heard about the *Oriel*, until she dropped into Singapore on the 11th inst., with a cargo of coal from Barry. A representative of the *Straits Times* went on board the collier with the intention of obtaining full particulars of her capture by the Russians. He was disappointed. "Why," said the chief officer, "we never saw a single Russian during the whole voyage." On being shown the telegram in question, it seemed to afford the utmost amusement to him and his comrades

CHINA AND MANILA S.S. CO., LD.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

The twenty-first ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the Company's Offices, No. 14 Des Voeux Road, on the 19th March, at 11 a.m., for the purpose of receiving a statement of accounts and the report of the general managers for the year ending 31st December, 1903. Those present were Messrs. C. A. Tomes (chairman), N. A. Siebs, D. E. Brown, J. H. Lewis, A. V. Apcar (consulting committee), G. C. C. Master, A. G. Gordon, C. Somerville, A. Babington, G. Coits, J. R. Michael, C. Klinck, P. C. Potts, C. H. Campbell, S. J. Michael, E. Kadoorie, and Fung Wa Chun.

The notice convening the meeting having been read, the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, I presume we may, as usual, take the report as read. It would seem superfluous to repeat our great regret at having to come before you with such an account for the year's work, and we can only express the fervent hope that the like will not happen again. Continuous and constantly increasing competition right through the year has been our main trouble, and this has been assisted by a general slackness in Philippine trade. For many months the export cargo from Manila by all steamers has been so small that their sailing telegrams have generally described them as in ballast, and the passenger list has been about the only source of income. In the opposite direction there has been a movement of merchandise greater, probably, than in any previous year, and this company has not failed to carry its share. The increase in volume has been more than offset, however, by the increase in rates. How unprofitable this trade has been may be judged best, perhaps, if I give the rate on the principal article shipped—rice—which for a long time was carried at six cents per picul or, say, \$1.00 Mexican per ton. When the stevedore charges are deducted the steamer receives barely 50 cents per ton for its share, and everybody can judge how unremunerative that can be. The passenger traffic, both ways, increased somewhat in volume, and although competitive rates were low, our earnings showed some profit to offset partly the freight losses. To change for the better this condition of affairs has been the constant aim and object of the general managers during the whole year, and they have spared no effort, with due regard to the rights and future prospects of the company, in suggesting means and trying to devise ways to attain this end. Until the near approach of war it seemed as though nothing could be done. Since then, in sympathy with the general improvement in freights, rates have been advanced gradually, and at the moment we have returned to what we might call the normal schedule. That is the position just now, and I am sure you all join with me in hoping it will continue. I know that you would like to be assured about the future, and I wish I could assure you with confidence, but the situation is all so uncertain and so full of difficulties it would be very unwise to prognosticate. Poor earnings were not the only cause for anxiety last year. We had a very disagreeable incident in the so-called *Zafiro* mystery, and for a time were very anxious about the outcome. It was a clever fraud and, under certain circumstances, might have succeeded. The legal expenses for this case were heavy, but we recovered about \$9,000 from the other side, and the balance of \$3,000 we expect to receive from our indemnity company. The *Rubi* had a case in Court too, a collision case with a junkmaster, and this we also fortunately won. The items in the account, if discouraging, are, I trust, clear. The underwriting account has accumulated in the last few years to \$31,000, and it was thought advisable to transfer this amount to profit and loss, and not have the incongruity of a favourable balance in underwriting made out of an unsuccessful working account. The capital now stands at \$1,213,750, and all the shares outstanding are fully paid. Some few shares on which the final calls were not paid, after due notice, were declared forfeited and became the property of the company. The common practice, I believe, is to appropriate the calls paid on such shares as current income, but the more correct method is to do as we have done and

let the sum stand as capital until at least such time as the balance of unissued shares shall have been paid for in full. The loan from the British Investment Trust has been all paid off, and the only important creditor is the company's bank. The outstanding freights have all, except a small balance, been collected since December 31st last.

Mr. S. J. MICHAEL—Mr. Chairman, I should like to know the amount, in dollars, realised on the sale of the s.s. *Diamante* to enable the company to set aside \$142,748.40. What was the book value?

The CHAIRMAN—I have not got the figures before me. The *Diamante*, which has been written off, has been on the books for some time—the difference in exchange aided us—and the price we got in sterling left us \$142,748.40 over and above the price at which it stood in our books. The *Diamante* was sold last year for £23750.

Mr. MICHAEL—What was the exchange then, in sterling?

The CHAIRMAN—Really, I cannot remember. We paid at the exchange rate of the day, whatever that was.

Mr. MICHAEL—You could not tell me the amount in dollars?

The CHAIRMAN—If you would like to know I should be pleased to tell you after the meeting. It was sold to the N. Y. K.

Mr. MICHAEL—What was the book value?

The CHAIRMAN—I think it was, roughly, about \$270,000 or \$280,000. Something like that. The book value would be that amount less the profit. If there are no other questions, I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. G. C. C. MASTER seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. G. POTTS proposed, Mr. FUNG WA CHUN, seconded and it was agreed that Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. E. Brown, and J. H. Lewis be re-elected to the Consulting Committee, and that the appointment of Mr. A. V. Apcar be confirmed.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL proposed, Mr. A. G. GORDON seconded, and it was agreed that Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Potts be re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

CHINESE INSURANCE CO., LD.

(IN LIQUIDATION).

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at a general meeting to be held at the office of the Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, K.C.M.G., Victoria Buildings, Queen's Road, on Saturday, 26th March, at 3 p.m.:—

The liquidator now begs to submit a statement of accounts to 31st December, 1903.

The undersigned was entrusted with the liquidation of this company at a general meeting held on the 21st January, 1892, but it was not until September, 1894, that he felt himself justified to make the first repayment of capital at \$7.50 per share. A second return of capital at \$2.75 per share was declared in March, 1898; making a total of \$10.25 per share.

The company's shareholders to a great extent have been very slow, however, in coming forward to collect the amount due to them. Notwithstanding the greatest efforts made to induce shareholders to come forward, there still remains unclaimed the amount of \$310 as first repayment of capital on 108 shares, and \$363 as second repayment of capital on 132 shares. Owing to the great lapse of time this total of \$1,173 should now be disposed of.

In view of the very protracted delay in winding up this company your liquidator considered it right to cease charging the remuneration allowed to him of \$300 per annum, since the beginning of 1897; which should meet with the approval of the shareholders.

On making the second repayment of capital in March, 1898, your liquidator calculated that this would absorb as nearly as possible the funds of the company, and the somewhat larger cash balance of \$444.62 now in hand is mainly due to a dividend received quite unexpectedly in August, 1900, from the estate of Messrs. Degener & Co., in San Francisco.

The amount in hand, viz:—
 Cash balance in current account ... \$444.62
 Balance unclaimed on first repayment
 of capital ... 810.00
 Balance unclaimed on second repay-
 ment of capital ... 363.00

Total ... \$1,617.62
 should now finally be disposed of and the
 affairs of this company definitely be brought to
 a close, since after more than 12 years liquida-
 tion your liquidator now intends to leave the
 East.

RESOLUTION TO BE PROPOSED AT THE GENERAL MEETING.

To those shareholders who make a written
 application to the liquidator, Mr. J. Goosmann,
 on or before the 2nd day of April, 1904, \$1
 (Dollar One), or a fraction of same, to be
 returned per share, and any balance remaining
 after payment of auditor fee, printing and
 petty expenses to be transferred to the credit
 of the Liquidator.

The books of the company to remain in safe
 custody with Messrs. M. Ichers & Co., and to
 be destroyed after two years from date.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET, 31st December, 1903.	
ASSETS.	
Cash in bank.....	\$ 444.62
LIABILITIES.	
Capital	\$ 500,000.00
Paid up	300,000.00
Less transfer of balance at de- bit of profit and loss account at end of 1891	283,022.85
	16,977.15
Less transfer to 1st repayment of capital account 1,500 shares at \$7.50	11,250.00
Transfer to 2nd repayment of capital account 1,500 shares at \$2.75	4,125.00
	15,375.00
Transfer of balance at debit of profit and loss account per 1892 to 31st December, 1903	1,157.53
	16,532.53
	\$444.64

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT,

Per 1892 to 31st December, 1903.	
Loss on 1 Japanese bond	\$ 423.12
Loss paid per British barque <i>Kitty</i>	49.73
Claim per Pempont settled with	1,578.57
Charges	2,702.71
	\$4,814.13
Final dividend Estate Degener & Co., San Francisco	\$ 322.26
Unclaimed dividends	86.00
Interest account	3,174.84
Account receivable	10.50
Furniture	53.00
Balance	1,157.53
	\$4,814.13

First repayment of capital per 31st December, 1903.	
Amount paid into Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation being first repay- ment of capital on 1,500 shares at \$7.50 per share	11,250.00
Amount paid through Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on 1,392 shares at \$7.50 per share	10,440.00
Amount remaining unclaimed at bank on 108 shares at \$7.50 per share on 1st January, 1904	£10.00
	\$11,250.00

Second repayment of capital per 31st December, 1903.	
Amount paid into Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation being second repayment of capital on 1,500 shares at \$2.75 per share	4,125.00
Amount paid through Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on 1,368 shares at \$2.75	3,762.00
Amount remaining unclaimed on 132 shares at \$2.75 per share on 1st January, 1904	363.00
	\$4,125.00

The U.S. gunboat *Wilmington* has left
 Shanghai for Hankow carrying a guard of fifty
 marines to be landed there. The U.S.S.
Cincinnati has gone to Chefoo, where she now
 lies at anchor, having relieved the U.S.S. *New*
Orleans.

SHOCKING MURDER AT WEST POINT.

A murder of a most horrible nature was re-
 ported on the 18th inst. as having occurred on the
 previous night at West Point. In a little lane
 which leads off East Street behind the Sisters'
 quarters at the Government Civil Hospital a Chi-
 nese who was walking along about 10 o'clock on
 Thursday evening had his attention attracted
 by an unsightly mass lying at the side of the
 thoroughfare. He made a closer examination
 and discovered to his horror that it consisted
 of the dead body of a young man, fearfully
 disfigured. The head was battered in and
 blood covered the face and body. The fea-
 tures were distorted in the manne-
 peculiar to the victim of the stranger's noose.
 round the unfortunate youth's neck was
 tightly twisted his own waist-band and the
 spare ends of the long sash had been used by
 the murderers to tie his legs up in such a
 doubled-up way that they touched his neck on
 each side. According to all accounts the mui-
 lated body must have presented a horrid
 sight.

When the man who first stumbled across the
 body found out what the state of affairs was he
 informed the first policeman he met and after
 due precautions had been taken the dead body
 was removed to No 7 Police Station and enquiry
 was set about.

On the 18th our representative was unable to
 procure much information that would serve to
 throw light on the tragedy. As in all such cases,
 the police preserve a strict reticence. I
 appears, however, that the murdered "boy"
 was a servant at the Diocesan Girls' School
 in Bonham Road where he had been employed
 for about six months. He was about 22 years of
 age. Apparently he was addicted to gambling,
 for it is reported that he was in the habit of
 foregathering with certain boys engaged in the
 domestic quarters at the Government Civil
 Hospital and others for that purpose. It would
 also appear that in the gang of gamblers,
 with which he was associated there was ill-will
 evinced towards him on account of his good
 luck at the games of chance in which they
 engaged.

It has not transpired what his movements
 were on the night on which he was done
 to death. To all appearances the "boy"
 left the Diocesan School to join a
 gambling gang who have their head-
 quarters in a house somewhere in that neigh-
 bourhood. In all likelihood the bad feeling
 against him came to a head that same night with
 the result that he was murdered in the shock-
 ing and brutal manner related and dum-
 ped into the lane. As is mentioned above,
 the movements of the unfortunate "boy"
 on the Thursday night are not known so far and
 it is impossible to say where the dastardly
 crime was perpetrated. More than likely
 those responsible for his murder knew that he
 was in the habit of frequenting the lane where
 his body was found and accordingly placed it
 there.

We understand the police are making every
 investigation into the case and it is to be hoped
 they will bring the murderers to justice. The
 name of the victim is Li Hun.

THE A.D.C. AT THE THEATRE.

The last performance of *His Excellency* was
 given at the Theatre Royal on the 12th inst.,
 before a house so crowded that one is inclined
 to wonder whether our Amateur Dramatic Club
 could not fill the Theatre for quite a little run
 of a successful piece. Certainly on Saturdays
 at least we believe that *His Excellency* would
 continue to draw for some time to come. The
 reception accorded to the closing performance
 was most enthusiastic, and recalls (which were
 very properly granted more freely than on the
 previous nights) were constant. Numerous
 bouquets were presented to the leading ladies
 and Mr. Phillips, Dame Cortlandt's able imper-
 sonator, received a basket of strawberries.
 We think we may say that the item which
 most pleased the audience was the dance intro-
 duced by Mrs. Hall-Wright and Lieut. David-
 son; but the duet between Mrs. Maitland and
 Surgeon Horley, the trio of Lieut. Davidson
 and his "daughters," Mrs. Hagen and Mrs.

Hall-Wright, and the Hussars' chorus won
 almost as enthusiastic applause. Moreover,
 Mr. George Lammert sang his very best in his
 solos, Mrs. Hall-Wright's "Oh! tell me this"
 was a triumph for her, and Mrs. Craddock's
 Christina was pleasing. The acting of Surgeon
 Norris and Mr. Phillips in their duologues,
 songs, etc. never failed to move the audience to
 laughter. In a performance so good all round
 it is rather invidious to pick out
 individuals, and we must conclude by
 congratulating the A.D.C. most heartily
 on the manner in which they have staged *His*
Excellency, and carried through one of the
 most difficult tasks they have ever attempted.
 Mr. E. W. Mitchell, Mr. A. Chapman (Acting
 Manager) and Mr. G. A. Caldwell, who arran-
 ged the dances, must be well pleased at the
 success of their efforts. Nor must we forget
 Mr. A. G. Ward, the conductor, and Mr. Evan
 Ormiston, who was at the piano on the last
 two nights.

One of the chief hits of both Friday and
 Saturday evenings was when in his song in the
 second Act, Lieut. Davidson introduced the
 following amusing topical verse, which was
 received with loud applause:—

There is a serious question which is vexing my
 community,
 And taxes to the bursting-point my over-burdened
 mind;
 The management of servants lends a splendid op-
 portunity,
 To Governors and others of the Legislative kind.
 When, as the Governor's deputy, I heard, with ut-
 most zeal and zest,
 Their schemes for registration, and agreed with all
 they said;
 But now I am the Governor, I shew a lack of in-
 terest,
 By giving all their well-laid plans a knock upon the
 head.
 Though my heart it really bled
 At the things the ladies said,
 I had truly got no option, but to knock it on the
 head.
 The last performance will be given to-night.

DEVONIAN DINNER IN HONGKONG.

The members of the Devonian Society held
 their annual dinner on the 19th inst., the
 function taking place on this occasion at the
 Hongkong Hotel. Though Devonshire is well
 represented in the Colony by her sons, especial-
 ly while the Fleet is in Harbour, only thirteen
 Devonians were present at the dinner. Not only
 in Devonshire, but in the folklore of almost
 every English county, 13 is declared to be the
 most unlucky of numbers, and as all other odd
 numbers are accounted "lucky" the presence of
 a couple of guests must be accounted a most
 fortunate circumstance. Those present included
 Messrs. E. W. Mitchell (president), Mowbray
 S. Northcote (hon. secretary and treasurer, who
 occupied the vice-chair), H. E. Pollock, K.C.,
 N. Deacon, A. Shelton Hooper, E. R. Hallifax,
 H. Tozer, F. G. Boyes, N. Mumford, H. Han-
 cock, J. Hooper, B. A. Hale, C. J. B. Stoneman,
 and, as guests, Messrs. Grimble and Taylor.
 Conspicuous on the walls hung a representation
 of the arms of the county, as well as portraits
 of the late Admiral Buller (first president of the
 Society) and Admiral Swinston Holland, who
 also has served the Society as its president. A
 capital dinner was provided, an especial feature,
 of course, being a "jacket" (minus the cream)
 while the wines included "sloe gin."

After the repast the business affairs of the
 society were transacted. These included the
 reading of a letter from Lady Buller thanking
 the society for a message of condolence and
 sympathy sent on the occasion of Admiral
 Buller's death. Mr. Mitchell was re-elected pre-
 sident, and Mr. Northcote hon. secretary and
 treasurer. Mr. Pollock was elected to fill the
 vacancy on the Committee caused by the depar-
 ture of Mr. B. K. Leigh. A short toast list was
 afterwards gone through, interspersed with
 songs and recitations, several of them in the
 Devonshire dialect, and in this way was spent
 what the President affirmed to be the most
 enjoyable evening ever held by the Society.

M. G. de Berard, French Consul at Manila,
 died on the 14th inst. The interment took
 place on the 15th, the pall-bearers being various
 members of the Consular body. M. de Berard
 had been at Manila for 13 years consecutively.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Singapore, cash with	40,986.75
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Hongkong, cash with	43,692.29
Cash in hand	4,629.13
	\$611,235.10

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$	c.
To management, office expenses, and general charges at Hongkong, Sandakan and Kudat	33,456.63	
To exchange, loss on	3,281.17	
To balance	50,093.64	
	\$86,831.44	
Cr.	\$	c.
By profit on sales of rough and sawn timber, &c.	85,529.52	
By interest	1,291.42	
By scrip fees	10.50	
	\$86,831.44	

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

In the Hongkong Hotel on the 19th inst. at noon the ordinary yearly meeting of the above Company was held. Mr. R. C. Wilcox (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. Parfitt and W. Hutton Potts (directors), J. R. Michael, M. S. Northcote, J. H. Underwood, H. C. Wilcox, E. S. Joseph, P. C. Potts, W. E. Clarke, A. Rodger, W. Davies, E. D. Haskell, Dr. Rennie, Messrs. F. D. Goddard, and C. Mooney (secretary).

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—As the report of the directors and statement of accounts has been in your hands for some time, I propose, with your permission, to take them as read. As you will remark, the results of the working for the second half of 1903 exhibit a considerable decline on the same period of 1902, amounting to \$11,740.96. This was chiefly due to the falling off in the number of transient guests, and also to the very appreciable decrease in the receipts from the bars. The balance at credit of profit and loss, including the sum of \$13,659.41, brought forward from last half-year, amounts to \$84,161.60, as compared with \$93,272.09 in the corresponding half year of 1902. Under the circumstances, but with much regret, your directors did not feel justified in proposing the dividend of 12 per cent, which you have enjoyed for several previous half-years, and have accordingly recommended payment of \$5 per share, or 10 per cent., to write off the usual sum of \$10,000 from value of furniture and fixtures, the transfer of \$10,000 to repairs and renewals fund, to write off \$1,000 from value of steam-launch, and to carry the balance of \$3,161.60 to new account. As I hear that the amount proposed as dividend has excited some dissatisfaction, I should like to point out that the proposed apportionment of the profits is the only one that, as faithful stewards and business men, we could prudently suggest, and for the following reasons:—First, we have no reserve for equalisation of dividends. Secondly, it is absolutely necessary to make a generous provision for repairs and renewals. This fund is constantly being drawn upon; for part of the hotel building is very old and requires frequent and, sometimes, rather extensive repairs. Thirdly, our furniture, glassware, crockery, carpets, curtains, &c., are subjected to very hard wear, and it is imperative that we should allow liberally for depreciation. I may add that machinery and fixtures have a knack of giving out occasionally and requiring renewal. We have now had a fairly good experience of what wear and tear is in an establishment of this kind with careless Chinese servants; and as the fruit of that experience we have, for some years, maintained the amount for depreciation at \$10,000 for each half-year, and a like sum has been devoted for repairs and renewals. To appropriate less than this would not be sound policy in such a concern. I am glad to say the electric light installation has been completed all over the building, and it is working well, the light being excellent; and the hotel is now, therefore, up to date in all departments. Mr. Osborne, our absent colleague, now on his way out, has been to a great deal of

trouble in looking after the interests of the hotel whilst in England. In fact, he has spent a fair share of his holiday in inspecting improvements, making purchases and engaging employees for the company without any remuneration, and I am sure the shareholders will agree that hearty thanks are due for the trouble taken and the warm interest shown by him in the welfare of the company. (Applause). Before proposing the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions shareholders may wish to put.

Mr. J. H. UNDERWOOD—I beg to propose that the usual \$6 dividend be paid. On the furniture account, during the last eighteen months, they have written off \$25,000 and have only spent \$13,454, which has come out of profits. I think this continued writing off of the furniture, especially, and I might also mention the launch—is exorbitant. It is a well-known fact that the furniture in this place cannot be replaced, I don't think I am wrong in saying, at three times the amount. As regards repairs and renewals, one knows that, in a Colony like this, the expenses are enormous, but I think that that has been carried a little too far. I beg to propose that the usual \$6 dividend be paid.

The CHAIRMAN—Does anyone second this amendment?

There was no second.

The CHAIRMAN then said:—Gentlemen,—The amendment has not been seconded. I may say I do not agree with Mr. Underwood, and I am quite sure the majority of the shareholders will feel that, if we could agree to cut down the amount devoted to renewals and repairs and depreciation we should have done so. It is not an easy task to come before the shareholders and propose a smaller dividend, but the primrose way—the easy way—is of course to always make the dividend the same. I only regret we could not do so on this occasion. I think, myself, the dividend may have been rather too generous in the past, for we ought to build up a reserve. We ought to provide for the re-building of the old building. We shall not have to do so yet, but the time must come when we shall have to rebuild it. We have to do a lot in repairing and repatching the old building from time to time, and the time for us to rebuild must come, and we should make a great deal more out of it. That will have to be provided for. When we do get larger receipts, which I hope we shall receive when that new building on the reclamation is tenanted, then we ought to build up, in a systematic manner, a fund for that purpose. It would save shareholders a great deal of trouble, and give them a great deal of profit. With regard to the using up of the whole amount for repairs and renewals, we may not do that in one half year, but in the next half year we may need a great deal more. For instance, if a boiler gives out we have to replace it, and the carpets are an expensive item. The carpets have to be renewed and orders, in value thousands of dollars, to be sent home. We cannot go by what has been spent during the last half year. You have to take the whole result, and look at that. Well, gentlemen, if there are no other remarks—

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL—I see from the accounts that there are 1,000 mortgage debentures, authorised issue, at \$500 each, less the 420 held by the company. Are these available to the public?

The CHAIRMAN—They are available to the public, Mr. Michael, and we shall be happy to sell them. I may tell you they are in the Bank, which is advancing money on the strength of the debentures; but they would be glad to have the money.

Mr. MICHAEL—I only ask this because there is a certain class of people who prefer a steady and unfluctuating dividend; and I hope they will apply.

The CHAIRMAN—They are an excellent security; in fact, they are as good as anything in the Colony.

Mr. MICHAEL—Quite so; they are better than anything else.

The CHAIRMAN—We are going to furnish the new building with the money from these debentures; but at present we have not got it. I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. W. DAVIES seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. E. S. JOSEPH, seconded by Capt. CLARKE, Mr. W. Parfitt was re-elected to the directorate.

Mr. P. C. Potts moved, Mr. F. D. GODDARD seconded, and it was agreed that Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe be re-elected directors.

The CHAIRMAN—That closes the business of the meeting, gentlemen, and nothing remains for me to do but to thank you for your attendance, and to say that dividend warrants will be ready on Monday afternoon if shareholders will kindly apply for them at the secretary's office. We do not send them out by post now.

The following is the report:—

Gentlemen,—In accordance with Section 56 of the articles of association, the directors now beg to submit their report for the half-year ended 31st December, 1903.

ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working account amounted to \$78,424.49 as compared with \$90,165.45 for the corresponding period of 1902, showing a decrease of \$11,740.96.

The profit and loss account, including the sum of \$13,659.41 brought forward from 30th June, 1903, shows a credit balance of \$84,161.60, which the directors recommend should be apportioned as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year	\$60,000.00
To write off from value of furniture and fixtures	10,000.00
To transfer to repairs and renewals account	10,000.00
To write off from value of steam launch	1,000.00
To carry forward to new account	3,161.60
	\$84,161.60

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The electric light has now been installed, and is working satisfactorily.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. W. Parfitt retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe, C.A., who offer themselves for re-election.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st December, 1903.

LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Capital—		
12,000 shares at \$50 each (fully paid-up)	600,000.00	
1,000 mortgage debentures, authorised issue, at \$500 each	500,000.00	
Less 420 ditto held by the Company	210,000.00	
	290,000.00	
Reserve fund	100,000.00	
Sundry creditors	30,577.27	
Unclaimed dividends	3,189.00	
Special reserve fund against installation of electric light	20,000.00	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (overdrawn)	38,345.48	
Repairs and renewals account, balance as per statement	771.23	
Profit and loss account, balance as per statement	84,161.60	
	\$1,167,004.63	

ASSETS.

ASSETS.	\$	c.
Value of land and buildings as per last report:—		
Marine lot No. 5 and remaining portion of marine lot No. 3	372,045.60	
Remaining portion of marine lot No. 7	368,108.20	
	740,153.80	
Praya reclamation—Cost of land	21,291.77	
New building on reclamation, payments on account	153,415.94	
	174,707.71	
Cost of three Chinese houses on sec. B C and D of inland lot No. 8	33,000.00	
Value of furniture and fixtures, as per last report	86,197.67	
Less written off, as recommended in last report	10,000.00	
	76,197.67	
Since added	685.70	
	76,883.37	

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

THE ELVINS LIBEL CASE.

His Lordship gave judgment in the case in which T. Elvins, late head watchman in the Kowloon Docks, sued fifteen Indian watchman for \$500 damages for libel alleged to have been contained in a letter dated 25th November last, in which defendants, writing to Mr. W. Wilson, the manager of the Docks, accused plaintiff of extorting "squeezes," etc., from them. Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), was the counsel for plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings, solicitor), represented the defendants.

In delivering judgment his Lordship remarked that in the matter of law this was a case of qualified privilege, in his opinion. Plaintiff had failed to prove that the writing of the letter was an act of malice. He found that defendants had shown reasonable grounds for making some allegations, and with regard to other allegations they had shown reasonable grounds for believing them. His Lordship accordingly gave judgment for defendants and costs.

Wednesday, 16th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

SEQUEL TO THE RACES.

Mr. J. E. Sinclair, of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., sued Mr. D. Macdonald (Messrs. Butterfield & Swire) for \$100 damages alleged to have been caused to the plaintiff's bicycle by defendant's pony. It appeared that Mr. Sinclair was riding on his bicycle on the Happy Valley early one morning before the Races. Mr. Macdonald's pony was being brought back from training on the Racecourse by a mifoo. It was alleged to have shied at plaintiff's machine and to have kicked out, hitting the saddle of the bicycle with its hind hoofs, throwing Mr. Sinclair off and breaking the machine in two. Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker, & Deacon, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. John Hays, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, & Master, solicitors, represented the defendant.

After hearing evidence, His Lordship held that it had not been proved to his satisfaction that the pony that kicked the bicycle was the property of the defendant, and he accordingly gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

Thursday, 17th March.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M.
GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A GINGER FIRM BANKRUPT.

Mr. John Hastings, solicitor, appeared in support of a petition by Joo Tak Seug for a receiving order on the Chi Loong ginger firm. He stated that the firm's act of bankruptcy was that the partners had left the Colony shortly before the China New Year, leaving the business entirely unprotected. The assets amounted to about \$5,000.

His Lordship asked if this was the well-known firm of Chai Loong or Ghy Loong, ginger merchants?

Mr. Hastings said it was not.

His Lordship remarked that he supposed this was a case where a firm was using a name as nearly as possible alike to that of the Chai Loong and trading upon the latter's business.

Mr. Hastings—I believe that is so, my Lord.

His Lordship made a receiving order, and appointed Mr. Bruce Shepherd as Receiver.

A BIG DEBIT.

In re Lau Yuk Lam, *ex parte* Chung Iu Kwong, Mr. John Hays, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes, and Master, solicitors, appeared in support of an application for a receiving order. He stated that the assets amounted to \$53,000,

including outstanding debts, and the liabilities to, roughly, \$80,000.

In evidence the petitioning creditors stated that they would be able to collect possibly about \$13,000 of the assets.

His Lordship granted a receiving order, Mr. Bruce Shepherd to be Receiver.

MORE ABSCONDING CREDITORS.

The Joo Tak Seug firm and two other firms applied for a receiving order on the estate of the Ching Hang firm, merchants.

Mr. John Hastings, solicitor, who appeared for the petitioning creditors, stated that the partners of the firm had left the Colony shortly before the China New Year, leaving in charge of the business a manager who had also since departed. Assets were estimated at about \$2,000.

His Lordship made a receiving order and appointed Mr. Bruce Shepherd to act as Receiver.

Friday, 18th March.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM
M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHARGE OF ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE.

Chan Hing and Ng Ting Cheung were charged with having on 18th February assaulted a woman named Yi Yan between Yaumati and Lolungham and robbed her of her purse containing about \$39.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. E. H. Summers (foreman), A. Stucken, A. Abraham, F. MacRobie, T. Skinner, H. O. Siebler, and J. Landolt.

The Hon. Attorney-General Sir Henry S. Berkeley, who conducted the prosecution (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), stated that about 7 o'clock in the evening in question the complainant, an elderly woman, was returning from her son's house at Yaumati to her own house at Lolungham when she was set upon by two men, assaulted and robbed. The robbers decamped, but were afterwards arrested on information received.

After hearing evidence the jury found the charges not proven. The accused were discharged.

"NOTORIOUS LYING."

In the foregoing case one of the witnesses by name Wong Sam, a bean-curd dealer in Yaumati, stated in evidence that the two accused came to his shop about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the day on which the robbery occurred and stayed there all night. At the Magistracy when examined he had stated that the two prisoners came to his place about a quarter-past 5 o'clock, stayed for about a quarter of an hour and returned about 8 o'clock. When asked by the Attorney-General to explain the discrepancy in his two statements witness said that Chinese police constable 164 told him to make the statement which he made at the Magistracy.

Chinese P.C. 164, sworn, deposed that he did not tell Wong Sam what to say. The evidence he gave at Yaumati was given in presence of Inspector Macdonald.

Inspector Macdonald was also called. He stated that Wong Sam gave his evidence without making any complaint that he had been prompted what to say.

His Lordship said he must commit Wong Sam for perjury. He stated that he had committed perjury before the Magistrate (Mr. Gompertz) because he had been asked to do so by a policeman. He must understand that, whether he was instigated or not, he could not commit perjury with impunity. If he was prompted to do so he should have told the Magistrate about it and he would have been protected. As it was he would go to prison for three months with hard labour for contempt of Court by most notorious lying, on his own confession.

The next witness in the case was Wong Chau, a brother of Wong Sam. He also gave evidence directly contrary to that which he gave at the Magistracy, making the plea that the police had prompted him. His revised version, however, differed considerably from his brother's.

His Lordship in sentencing Wong Chan to three months' imprisonment with hard labour said he did not believe the police had prompted him, for the reason that they would not have prompted him to say one thing and his brother another; his Lordship believed that the fact of the matter was that these two witnesses, who admitted that they were friends of the prisoners, had been got at and influenced to deny their previous story in an attempt to get the prisoners off.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Cheung Chiu Kwong was charged with having been concerned in an armed raid on a farmer's house near Shataukok, in the New Territory, on 11th March.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. E. Sullivan (foreman) J. L. Stuart, W. A. Stopani, A. Rymond, C. Klinck, B. E. Hastings, and J. C. Ritchie.

The Attorney-General in opening the case said that prisoner was charged with being concerned in this armed robbery. The case for the prosecution was that on the day in question, about 6 p.m., a gang of eight or nine armed men, of whom prisoner was one, entered the house of the complainant, a farm named Chu Tim, near Shataukok. They set upon the farmer, his two sons and his wives overawed them, and stole a quantity of money and clothes. They drove the farmer out of the house and one of the robbers struck him on the head, grazing his scalp. Then the gang decamped. The prisoner, who was masked, had a struggle with the youngest son, and his mask was torn from his face. He was then recognised by the people in the house. He managed to get away, but one of the sons followed the retreating gang and saw the prisoner going into his house. They charged him with having taken part in the robbery. Prisoner denied the charge. On reporting the matter to the police, Sergeant Lamont and a constable set out for the village where the affair had taken place. On the road they met prisoner, who told them that he was on his way to the police station to report the robbery. After making enquiries, Sergeant Lamont took the prisoner into custody.

Evidence was given.

The jury found the prisoner guilty and he was sentenced to 3 years' hard labour and to receive 20 strokes of the birch.

The Court rose.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

TROUBLE WITH HOUSE SERVANTS.

Mr. A. H. Ough, architect, was sued by Li Wong, his late cook, for \$9 in respect of balance of wages alleged to be due for February.

The plaintiff stated that his wages were \$18 a month. He had received \$9 and now claimed the balance. He left the defendant's service on 29th February. He gave notice verbally that he wished to leave and afterwards wrote a registered letter to defendant giving formal notice.

His Lordship—What did you want to leave for?

Plaintiff—Because the master was always "rowing" me.

His Lordship—Well, I have to talk to my servants pretty freely sometimes.

Plaintiff—Yes; but there should be a principle about the "rowing."

His Lordship—Yes, of course. But if you are wrong you must expect to be talked to.

For the plaintiff there also gave evidence Mr. Ough's late butler, who had to do with the engagement and payment of all the house servants.

Mr. Ough in examination deposed that the \$18 he paid through the butler every month to the cook included the wages of the market-coolie. The butler wanted to give notice in the middle of January that he wished to leave at the end of that month. He did not accept that notice. Then the butler wrote saying he wanted to leave at the end of February; defendant accepted that notice. Two or three days before the end of the month the butler asked him if he wanted the other servants to stay. Defendant replied that as they were the butler's servants

they had better go. At the beginning of February his No. 1 cook had belted immediately he got his wages and gone to Dr. Jordan. Plaintiff, who had previously been No. 2 cook, acted as his substitute. At the end of the month when he asked for his wages defendant halved the amount that he had previously paid to the two cooks and gave him \$9. While the plaintiff was acting as cook he refused to go to the market and defendant could not get any rice, the excuse always being that such and such work was not his "pidgin." The "rowing" of which plaintiff spoke took place at the beginning of February after the No. 1 cook had gone away. Defendant had a very bad dinner served, and when he demanded to see the cook, plaintiff was produced. Owing to the servants all leaving he had had to give up his house and go to stay in the hotel.

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

HONGKONG.

The U.S.S. *Kentucky* went into dock at Kowloon on the 18th while H.M. flagship *Glory* shifted from alongside the dock to a buoy. The Chinese gun-boat *Kwong Kam*, Capt. Chan Ging Lok, arrived from Canton on the 18th inst. having left that port on the previous evening.

H.M. river gunboats *Robin* and *Sandpiper* have left port, as also has the Chinese gunboat *Kwong Yuen*. The German river gunboat *Tsin Tan*, recently put together by the Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., has returned from a cruise. The Chinese gunboats *Fuk On*, Capt. Lam Ping Sing, and *Fuk Po*, Capt. Kew, arrived from Canton on the 17th inst. having left that port on the previous evening.

H.M.S. *Glory* has had a second funeral within a very short space of time. MacDonald, A.B., was buried with Naval honours at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon, the ceremony being a most impressive one. The band of H.M.S. *Cressy* played the funeral march as the men walked in slow procession to the Cemetery gate. On arriving at this point the band ceased, while the Union Jack covered coffin was lifted from the gun-carriage, and carried by sturdy sailors to the grave, the attendance following with uncovered heads. Capt. the Hon. W. G. Stopford, and various other officers, were present. The Roman Catholic chaplain performed the religious ceremony. The three final volleys were heard at a considerable distance.

The U. S. S. *Kentucky* arrived from Manila on the afternoon of the 15th inst. The U. S. collier *Nanshan* arrived from Cavite shortly before noon on the 16th with 3,000 tons of coal for the U. S. fleet in these waters. At about 7 a.m. on the 16th inst. H.M.S. *Cressy* removed from her moorings in the Merchant Anchorage to the Navy berth vacated by the *Leviathan* when she went to Japan. H.M.S. *Glory* (the flagship) has come out of dock, and is now alongside. H.M.S. *Talbot* left for Shanghai at 7.30 a.m. on the 16th. H.M. gunboat *Moorehen* has left for the Canton River. The Chinese gunboat *Kwong Yuen*, Capt. King Chow, left Canton on the evening of the 15th, arriving here next morning.

A pretty wedding took place at St. John's Cathedral on the 16th inst. the contracting parties being Sergeant William John Kerr, of the Hongkong Police, and Miss Lillian Maude Smith, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, of Eye, Suffolk. A goodly number of the Sergeant's brother officers, and interested spectators, assembled at the Cathedral at 12 o'clock, the hour fixed for the ceremony. The Rev. F. T. Johnson was the officiating clergyman. The bride, who was given away by Inspector Langley, was attired in a Japanese silk dress, trimmed with guipure, a wreath of orange blossoms and veil. She also wore a valuable gold watch and chain, and gold bracelet, the gifts of the bridegroom, and carried a bouquet of flowers. The bridesmaid, Miss Rosie Langley (daughter of Inspector and Mrs. Langley) was prettily dressed, and wore a gold bangle, the gift of the best man. Sergeant Davitt (one of the bridegroom's brother officers) performed the duties of best man. Later in the day, Sergeant and Mrs. Kerr left the Colony by the *Heungshan* for Macao.

COMMERCIAL.

SUGAR.

Hongkong 18th March.—The prices are declining, market being dull.

Shekloong.	No. 1, White.....	\$8.40 to \$8.45	pcls.
Do.	" 2, White.....	7.50 to 7.55	"
Do.	" 1, Brown.....	5.85 to 5.90	"
Do.	" 2, Brown.....	5.70 to 5.75	"
Swatow.	No. 1, White.....	8.25 to 8.30	"
Do.	" 2, White.....	7.40 to 7.45	"
Do.	" 1, Brown.....	5.75 to 5.80	"
Do.	" 2, Brown.....	5.55 to 5.60	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	.....	12.75 to 12.80	"
Shekloong	"	10.90 to 11.00	"

RICE.

Hongkong 18th March.—There is no market, and the prices are consequently declining.

Saigon, Ordinary	.....	\$3.05 to \$3.10
" Round, good quality	.....	3.65 to 3.70
" Long	.....	3.85 to 3.90
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	.....	3.55 to 3.60
" Garden, " No. 1	.....	3.70 to 3.75
" White, .....	.....	4.25 to 4.30
" Fine Cargo	.....	4.50 to 4.55

OPIUM.

16th March.—

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.			
Malwa New	.....	\$900 to \$920	per picul.
Malwa Old	.....	\$940 to \$960	do.
Malwa Older	.....	\$1,040 to \$1,060	do.
Malwa V. Old	.....	\$1,080 to \$1,100	do.
Persian fine quality	.....	\$880 to —	do.
Persian extra fine	.....	\$890 to —	do.
Patna New	.....	\$1,265 to —	per chest.
Patna Old	.....	— to —	do.
Benares New	.....	\$1,247 to —	do.
Benares Old	.....	— to —	do.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Trade Report of 10th March, state:—There is better feeling in the market and more signs that the trade generally is recovering from its annual rest. A good many of the smaller country merchants have come in with orders to buy, and the first indication of their influence on the situation is seen at the auctions; the second hand holders, however, appear to be the easiest to deal with, and, pressed as they are by the Banks, the weakest of them are only too willing to sell at prices the majority cannot look at. Undoubtedly there are many chops and makes that the latter only have the control of, and which are being held for nearer the replacing cost; but in some instances where the goods were cheaply bought in the early Autumn, sellers have made some concessions in order to keep in the market. The River trade is unquestionably the brisker, and in some quarters the clearances thence are found to be quite satisfactory. Shantung is showing more signs of life and the shipments via Tsingtao are increasing, though perhaps it is at the expense of Chefoo and Tientsin. From the latter Port news has arrived of the opening of the market there and some particulars of the sales are to hand, but it is understood the quantities are on quite a retail scale. The exchange on Shanghai is said to be 3 per cent. premium, but seems subject to the same fluctuations as sterling rates here. The Tientsin dealers are evidently not putting much faith in the possible maintenance of the prices there, but are doing their best to beat down weak holders, and it is reported have managed to get Pepperell Drills down to Tls. 4.60, while for 40 yard Jeans, which are strongly held by one man, they have had to pay Tls. 4.80! The prospects of business with Newchwang are very gloomy, in fact it seems most probable that the whole of Manchuria will be devastated by the Russians in their impotent rage. On the other hand the Koreans, probably feeling secure under the fostering care of Japan, are ready and anxious for goods, but shippers are debarred from sending anything to that country yet, though we understand some shipments have been made made to Japan to await an opportunity of being forwarded. The Manchester market is rapidly regaining the strength it temporarily lost and now apparently finds there is more in the Cotton situation than was for a long time believed. Mr. Henry Neill has reduced his estimate of the crop to 10,250,000 bales, and the price for Mid American has advanced to 8.50d. in Liverpool, and Egyptain has gone up to 9d. The export figures from Manchester for February are as follows:—Plain Cottons to Hongkong and China 35,000,000 yards and Yarn 200 bales. Dyed goods

are heavy, namely 10,100,000 yards, while Prints amount to 3,000,000 yards. It is anticipated that in Plain goods the figures will begin to show a falling off now. There is nothing doing with American goods, the market there being very strong at prohibitive rates, 2.85 yard Drills being quoted 12s. 6d. No further shipments had been made to China up to the 25th January.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs. Bandinel & Co., of Newchwang, in their Market Report dated, 3rd March, state:—Arrivals of produce during the winter are much less than the average of years, farmers and larger growers fearing to forward their goods to the inland depots, and capitalists and merchants hesitating to invest in the recent and present state of affairs. Therefore an unusual quantity of Beans and Grain remains stored in the small towns and villages through the producing districts. It is stated also that about 300,000 piculs Beans were sent by rail to Dalny in the early part of the winter, of which rather more than half was shipped to Japan, the rest arriving too late. Stocks in port are estimated at: Beans 525,000 piculs. Bean Oil 52,340 piculs. Beancakes few or none. Grain 96,000 piculs. Castor Oil 2,000 piculs. Melon Seeds 23,000 piculs. Stocks of Beans at the three principal depots in the interior are estimated not to exceed 1,360,000 piculs.

Per steamer *Seydlitz*, sailed on 2nd March. For Singapore:—25 packages cassia. For Aden:—55 rolls chinaware, 1 case buttons, 1 case paper. For Beyreuth:—3 cases punjum silk. For Odessa:—300 boxes cassia. For Naples:—500 cases cassia, 250 bales cassia. For Genoa:—295 cases essential oil, 45 bales raw silk, 3 bales waste silk. For Antwerp:—2 case cigars. For Antwerp and Hamburg:—300 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—107 cases preserves, 37 bales canes. For Rotterdam:—149 rolls matting, 23 bales canes, 6 cases paper. For Bremen:—115 rolls matting, 10 cases camphorwood trunks. For Bremen and Hamburg:—107 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—154 bales feathers, 55 rolls matting, 30 bales canes, 10 cases vermilion, 5 cases ginger, 4 cases blackwoodware, 3 cases chinaware, 3 cases camphorwood trunks. For London:—400 rolls matting.

Per steamer *Moyune*, sailed on 2nd March. For London:—185 half-chests tea, from Foochow (particulars unknown), 39 cases blackwoodware, &c., 3,522 bales hemp, 67 bales feathers, 10 cases shells, 6 cases cigars, 8 cases hats, 30 cases essential oil, 15 cases bristles, 150 casks soy, 26 rolls mats, 44 bales canes, 24 packages sundries. For Liverpool:—8 cases blackwoodware. For Glasgow:—4 cases blackwoodware. For Hamburg:—84 rolls matting, 50 bales feathers, For London and Hamburg:—24 bales feathers. For London, Antwerp and Hamburg:—50 bales feathers. For Suez:—50 cases cassia. For Odessa:—100 bales chinaware, 153 chests tea. For Genoa:—20 cases fans. For Marseilles:—3 bales waste silk, 240 cases cassia.

Per M.M. steamer *Australien*, sailed on 8th March. For Marseilles:—340 bales raw silk, 4 cases feathers, 7 cases silks, 72 packages hair, 12 cases bristles, 6 cases sundries, 90 packages provisions, 12 cases cigars, 9 cases ylang ylang, 2 bales tobacco, 1 case hats. For Lyons:—65 bales raw silk. For London:—45 bales raw silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on 12th March. For Manchester:—300 bales waste silk. For London and Manchester:—211 bales waste silk. For Lyons:—112 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—160 bales raw silk. For London:—406 half-chests tea from Foochow (optional), 90 bales raw silk, 6 cases chinaware, 6 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases feathers, 1 case silks, 8 cases books, 12 cases merchandise.

Per P. & O. steamer *Borneo*, sailed on 17th March. For Glasgow:—3 cases chinaware, 4 cases copperware. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London:—3 cases cigars from Manila, 324 half-chests tea from Foochow, 60 bales feathers, 20 bales bamboo, 75 cases blackwoodware, 3 packages rattanware, 3 packages sundries, 8 bales waste silk, 187 m/packages tea, 206 cases cond. milk, 74 cases chinaware, 31 cases personal effects, 1 case screens.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG 18th March, 1904.—Business generally continues dull, and but few transactions of importance have transpired during the week under review.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, have ruled steady with small sales at \$605, and probable further buyers at the rate. London is unchanged at £59. Nationals have changed hands at the improved rate of \$35.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are easier with sellers at \$475. China Traders can still be placed at \$55, North Chinas have sold in the North at Tls. 67½. Yangtszes and Cantons are unchanged, the latter being still on offer at \$175.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong are firmer with buyers at \$282½. Chinas have sold at \$83 and \$84, closing steady at the latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have sold at \$26 and \$26½, and close with buyers at the former quotation. Indo-Chinas after receding to \$36 have gradually strengthened, and sales at \$88, \$88½ and \$89, cash and for the settlement, have been effected. The market is firm at the close with cash buyers at \$88 to \$89. China and Manilas have sold at \$19, \$19½ and \$20, and can now be placed, to a small extent, at \$21. Douglasses are neglected at \$33 sellers. Star Ferries (old) continue in request at \$30; the new issue is obtainable at \$18½. Shell Transports have sold and continue in some request at 19/-.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars, after sales at \$110 and \$111 cash, are easier with sales and some further sellers at \$110. Luzons continue on offer at \$10.

MINING.—Without business. Raubs are weak at \$7½ sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been disposed of in small lots at \$205 and \$205½, the market closing steady at \$205 with probable buyers. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have sold and are still procurable at \$92½. New Amoy Docks are unchanged at \$37½ sellers. Farnhams are quoted at Tls. 142 in the North.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at \$148 and \$147, closing weak with sellers at the lower rate. Kowloon Lands and West Points are on offer at \$35 and \$53 respectively. Hongkong Hotels are weak with sellers at \$140. Humphrey's Estates have buyers at \$10½ (old); the new issue has been placed at \$2.60. Shanghai Lands have receded to Tls. 108.

COTTON MILLS.—Quotations are unchanged, and no business is reported under this head.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements are firmer, and are now enquired for at \$25. China Borneos are quoted at \$9 sellers after a small sale reported at the rate. Watsons are easier with sellers at \$14½. Electrics (old) are procurable at \$12½; the new issue is lower with sellers at \$6½. Ropes have declined to \$142½ at which sales have been effected. Ices are obtainable at the reduced rate of \$220. Steam Water Boats have sold at \$15½, and China Providents at \$8½. China Light and Powers are wanted at \$4½.

MEMOS.—China Borneo Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 19th instant. China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 19th instant. Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., ordinary half yearly meeting on the 19th instant. China Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd., and Luzon Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meetings on the 24th instant. Watkins, Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 26th instant. Campbell, Moore & Company, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 31st instant. Wm. Powell Ltd., interim dividend of 50 cents per share on account of year 1903-4, is payable at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on and after the 22nd instant.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., in their Share Report dated 10th March, state:—Since the last issue of our circular there has not been a very active market, and with the exception of a substantial rise in the price of S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co.'s shares and Indo-Chinas we have nothing of much interest to report. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. No business reported. Hongkong quotes \$610 sales. The latest London quotation being £59. The T/T rate on London to-day is 2/7½. Marine Insurance.—Yangtze Insurance shares have been dealt in at \$135, closing steady. Unions are offering at \$480. Fire Insurance.—

No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. There has been a fair business done in this stock and the rates have improved from Tls. 59 for cash to Tls. 64 March, at which we close. For April from Tls. 60/65 has been reported, and a correspondingly higher average for May, June and July, closing with sales for July at Tls. 67. Our latest telegram from Hongkong quotes sellers at \$90½, and \$93 for July. Docks and Wharves. S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. The market opened with sales at Tls. 138½, and we close with buyers at Tls. 143. There has been a large business done for July at rates varying from Tls. 144/152, and our market closes very firm, shares being wanted at the last rates. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quoted at \$205 sellers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves. Business is reported for March at Tls. 210, 207½, 202½ and 195, closing with buyers at this rate. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—Kaiping ordinary shares have been placed at Tls. 6, and for bearer scrip at Tls. 6 and Tls. 6.10. Weihaiwei Golds are enquired for at Tls. 15. Lands.—No business reported. Industrial.—Lao Kung Mow shares have been placed at Tls. 32½. Shanghai Ices. A small lot at Tls. 18; buyers at Tls. 16. Paper & Pulp. Business has been done at Tls. 110 cash. Major Bros. have been placed at Tls. 40. China Flours are quoted at Tls. 68. Gas Shares have been done at Tls. 115, at which rate there are sellers. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. The market opened with sales at Tls. 305/302½; March, followed by transactions in fairly large quantities at Tls. 300, closing quiet at Tls. 297½. For June the rate has gradually declined from Tls. 322½ to 315, which is the last rate reported. Shares are asked for, for this delivery, at Tls. 312½. The Public are notified to-day that the accounts for the year ended Oct. 1903, will be sent out immediately, but the report will not be ready for some few days. Stores and Hotels.—Asters have been placed at \$27½, Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 15, Central Hotels at Tls. 18, for March delivery. Hall & Holtz at \$27½; Weeks & Co., a small lot at \$21. Miscellaneous.—Nothing reported. Loan.—No business reported this week.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 21st March.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	229½
ON GERMANY.—	
Credits 4 months' sight	234
On demand	187
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	44½
Credits, 60 days' sight	45½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	
Bank, on demand	136½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	
Bank, on demand	136½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	
Private, 30 days' sight	71½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	90½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	109½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	62
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.90
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	57.20
BAR SILVER, per oz.	26½

FREIGHTS.

Per Conference Steamers. To London and Northern Continental ports:—Tea 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. General cargo 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 per ton of 20 cwt. To Marseilles and Havre:—General 48/- net, per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds, 47/6 net, per ton of 20 cwt. To New York (Overland):—Tea 1½ G\$ cents per lb. gross. To New York, via Suez, 30/- per ton of 40 cubic feet. To Shanghai:—Tea, Taels 1.80 per ton of 13 half-chests. To Shanghai:—General, Taels 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

March—

- 10, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
- 10, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 11, Australian, British str., from Sydney.
- 11, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 11, Coromandel, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.
- 11, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
- 11, Hoihao, French str., from Haiphong.
- 11, M. Struve, German str., from Tamsui.
- 11, Simla, British str. from Bombay.
- 11, Sophie Rickmers, Ger. str., from K'notzu.
- 12, Afridi, British str., from Moji.
- 12, Batavia, British str., from Moji.
- 12, Chenan, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Giang Bee, British str., from Java.
- 12, Hsiping, British str., from Hongay.
- 12, Tingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 12, Titania, German trspt., from Tsintau.
- 12, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 12, Warrior, British str., from Bangkok.
- 13, Asama, British str., from Barry.
- 13, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
- 13, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 13, Kwangse, British str., from Canton.
- 13, Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Daphne, German str., from Samarang.
- 14, Hong Bee, British str., from Straits.
- 14, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
- 14, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 14, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
- 14, Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
- 14, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 14, Strathnevis, British str., from Cardiff.
- 14, Tetartos, German str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 14, Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.
- 15, Borneo, British str., from Yokohama.
- 15, Cymbeline, British str., from Barry.
- 15, Glancus, British str., from Yokohama.
- 15, Hailoong, British str., from Swatow.
- 15, Ichang, British str., from Wuhu.
- 15, Kentucky, U.S. flagship, from Manila.
- 15, Monterey, U.S. monitor, from Canton.
- 15, Phra C. C. Klao, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
- 15, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 15, Roon, German str., from Yokohama.
- 16, Andalusia, German str., from Tsintau.
- 16, Empr. of China, Brit. str., from V'couver.
- 16, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
- 16, Indrasamba, British str., from Portland.
- 16, Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 16, Nanshan, U.S. collier, from Cavite.
- 16, Ningpo, British str., from Shanghai.
- 16, Saint Bede, British str., from Manila.
- 16, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 16, Tiberius, German str., from Manila.
- 16, Triumph, German str., from Swatow.
- 17, Albenga, German str., from Shanghai.
- 17, Annam, French str., from Haiphong.
- 17, Arrow, British 4-m. bge., from New York.
- 17, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 17, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 17, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 17, Katanga, British str., from Barry.
- 17, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 17, Needles, British str., from Moji.
- 17, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
- 17, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Amoy.
- 17, Wuchang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 18, Anglin, German str., from Bangkok.
- 18, Feiching, British str., from Swatow.
- 18, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
- 18, Hamburg, German str., from Hamburg.
- 18, Kashing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 18, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
- 18, Palancotta, British str., from Singapore.
- 18, Palawan, British str., from London.
- 18, Sambia, German str., from Moji.
- 18, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
- 18, Waihora, British str., from Straits.
- 19, Atholl, British str., from Tacoma.
- 19, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
- 19, New Orleans, U.S. cruiser, from Shanghai.
- 19, Tremont, Amr. str., from Manila.
- 20, Ajax, British str., from Shanghai.
- 20, E. F. Ferdinand, Aust. str., from Trieste.
- 20, Goodwin, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
- 20, Hangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 20, Hopsang, British str., from Saigon.
- 20, Pronto, Norw. str., from Iloilo.
- 20, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.

March—DEPARTURES.

11. Amara, British str., for Saigon.
11. Decima, German str., for Saigon.
11. Eastern, British str., for Australia.
11. Independent, German str., for Kobe.
11. Kansu, British str., for Swatow.
11. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
11. St. Nicholas, British str., for Bassein.
11. Taisang, British str., for Kobe.
11. Taksang, British str., for Swatow.
12. Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
12. Boechley, British str., for Calcutta.
12. Carl Ella, for Caroline Island.
12. Coromandel, British str., for Europe.
12. Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
12. Malacca, British str., for Shanghai.
12. Progress, German str., for Quinhon.
12. Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
12. Simla, British str., for Shanghai.
12. Taintau, German str., for Bangkok.
12. Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
13. Chwnshan, British str., for Amoy.
13. Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
13. Hoihao, French str., for Haiphong.
13. M. Struve, German str., for Tamsui.
13. Oscar II., Norwegian str., for Moji.
13. Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
13. Tingsang, British str., for Chinkiang.
13. Trocus, British str., for Singapore.
14. Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
14. Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
14. Ischia, Italian str., for Bombay.
14. Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
14. Leviathan, British cruiser, for Yokohama.
14. Peleus, British str., for Manila.
14. Proteus, Norwegian str., for Manila.
14. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
15. Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
15. Eretria, British str., for Japan.
15. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
15. Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.
15. Lysemoon, German str., for Canton.
15. Luchs, German gunboat, for Canton.
15. Pakhoi, British str., for Shanghai.
16. Arratoon Apear, British str., for Calcutta.
16. Chenan, British str., for Manila.
16. China, German str., for Saigon.
16. Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.
16. Hsiping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
16. Giang Bee, British str., for Amoy.
16. Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
16. Hugin, British str., for Kobe.
16. Ichang, British str., for Canton.
16. Roon, German str., for Europe.
16. Talbot, British cruiser, for Mers Bay.
16. Victoria, American str., for Tacoma.
16. Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
17. Amberton, B. it. str., for Diamond Island.
17. Australian, British str., for Yokohama.
17. Borneo, British str., for Singapore.
17. Carl Diederichsen, German str., for Pakhoi.
17. Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
17. Else, German str., for Saigon.
17. Eva, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
17. Glaucus, British str., for London.
17. Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
17. Ningpo, British str., for Canton.
17. Onsang, British str., for Samarang.
17. Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
17. Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
18. Andalusia, German str., for Calcutta.
18. Choyasang, British str., for Canton.
18. Kumsang, British str., for Saigon.
18. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
18. Pha Chom Klao, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
18. Rubi, British str., for Manila.
18. Saint Bado, British str., for Shanghai.
18. Sophie Rickmers, Ger. str., for Sourabaya.
18. Tetartos, German str., for Kobe.
18. Tiberius, German str., for Shanghai.
18. Trieste, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
18. Triumph, German str., for Swatow.
18. Hamburg, German str., for Shanghai.
19. Hipsang, British str., for Shanghai.
19. Kweiyang, British str., for Shanghai.
19. Luohs, German gunboat, for Canton.
19. Mongkut, German str., for Kobe.
19. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
19. Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
19. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
20. Afridi, British str., for Yokohama.
20. Feiching, British str., for Shanghai.
20. Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
20. Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
20. Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
20. Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
20. Taicheong, German str., for Kobe.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong. Lieut.-Col. Mrs. and Miss Watt, Messrs. H. R. Hearson, Jameson, F. G. Oppenheaffan, C. L. Bland, and A. Hastein; for Singapore, Messrs. A. J. Cawdrey, F. L. Meyer, and C. H. Jones; for Marseilles, Rev. J. Stobie, Mr. U. Azzaretto, Misses A. Fasciolo, M. Marnello, and E. Emerson; for London, via Marseilles, Rev. and Mrs. C. J. F. Symons, and Miss L. H. Barnes; for London, Mrs. Stobie and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Laming and 3 children, Misses Paton, Starmer, and Garriock, Messrs. E. H. Barnett, D. D. Strachan, and J. Lennox and 3 children: from Yokohama, for London, Mr. W. Moxon.

Per *Simla*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Croysdale, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Thomas; from Marseilles, Mr. B. McGregor; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Thomsett and three children, Messrs. C. J. Carver, Nathan, S. Khan, and A. F. Castilho.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Weeks, Mrs. C. Richards, Mrs. Castle, Mrs. W. F. Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Harrell, Mr. and Mrs. C. Blakely, Mrs. E. Beresford, Misses L. McDonald, M. E. Beers, M. Yost, and M. Stewart, Messrs. C. A. Stewart, B. Ashurst, M. Boyer, F. A. Crooks, E. M. Ellison, Eugene Garnett, T. S. Hufford, M. B. Johnson, L. E. Kern, Lott Sandy, F. L. Simanton, C. H. T. Townsend, H. Tudor, P. P. Shuttleworth, T. A. Crellin, J. R. Holman, A. J. Kent, H. E. Lind, D. W. Nesbit, Walter M. Castle, W. T. Beardsley, Albert Butler, Delos Dolliver, W. F. Hughes, A. B. Johnson, W. S. Lanthorn, W. C. Mayer, L. J. Prescott, H. S. Simpson, F. A. Wester, Wm. Wallace, M. R. Wheeler, C. S. Husted, D. H. King, J. Kernan, Howard Ayres, H. H. Stanley, and S. Koizume.

Per *Roon*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. Frank Kidner and Obhazama, Mrs. Lam and child; from Kobe, Mr. J. Wallace; from Nagasaki, Messrs. H. Kato and M. Sashi; from Shanghai, Messrs. F. C. Britt, A. Plaisant, A. Schumacher, and J. Syna, Misses M. Fritze and E. Grimberg; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Mrs. Beauchamp, Messrs. B. M. Bermann and C. F. Baylum; from Nagasaki, Messrs. H. Inouye and H. Kasuki; from Yokohama, Mr. V. P. Mahomed; for Penang, from Nagasaki, Mrs. Achidarika, Misses Shime Shiroya and Lune Taira; from Yokohama, Mr. John A. Martin; from Shanghai, Mr. E. A. Pugh; for Port Said, from Kobe, Dr. W. J. Stearns; for Naples, from Yokohama, Mr. Spirito Andreis; for Genoa, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Landies and children, Miss H. Landies, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Pierson, Messrs. A. G. Lepper, K. Matsuoka, Lohberg, J. Otsake, A. Oyama, and K. Yoshida; from Kobe, Messrs. T. Sasami and K. Sata; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Friedel and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wegelin, Sub-Lieut. Lang, Messrs. G. Buzzetti, J. F. Hartmann, A. Korff, P. Lohest, and G. Vasconi; for Southampton, from Yokohama, Mrs. Murphine and child, Messrs. Daniel and Charles Lund; from Kobe, Mr. F. T. Leak; from Nagasaki, Miss E. M. Hunt; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Blount and child, Rev. and Mrs. Pullan and children, Mr. and Mrs. D. Rickerley and children, Mr. and Mrs. Ward and child, Mrs. Walshe and children, Mrs. C. Houghton and child, Miss Frost, and Mr. Cornack; for Bremen, from Yokohama, Mrs. Schulz; from Kobe, Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Worley, and Miss H. Junker.

Per *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. E. Horne, Dr. W. R. Parker, Messrs. A. Park and A. R. Dunlop; from Yokohama, Mrs. H. B. D. Ruell, Mr. R. D. Robinson, and Prof. Leon Kai Chew; from Shanghai, Messrs. W. J. Gresson, E. J. Spethmann, T. C. Stafford, R. N. Truman, and Emile Fischer, and Lieut. Pope Washington.

Per *Borneo*, from Yokohama, for London, Messrs. A. R. Riddle, H. K. Hitchcock, and D. Marshall; from Shanghai, for Marseilles, Mrs. Agasey and 3 children, and Mr. H. Wupperfeld; for London, Mrs. A. S. Bremner and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Munsir and 5 children, Mrs. Fowler and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Veale and 2 children, Mrs. Taylor and 3 children, Mrs. Wright and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Bland, Misses Urr, Dora and Lulu Clarke.

Per *Hamburg*, for Hongkong, from Southampton, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Badeley, Mrs. Skelton, Mrs. Jeffrey, Messrs. A. Skelton R. Brooks, J. Murchie, McDougall, McDuillan and E. Broklehurst; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Davies, Mr. & Mrs. Cooper, Capt. A. Stunkel, Sir Baird, Mrs. Stern, Miss Baird, Mrs. Evans, Messrs. Tarbutt, A. Piehl, E. Johannsen, E. Aitken, Back, C. Porter, G. Barr, Hoyer, Strobel, Hientze and Houtrick; from Colombo, Miss E. Seidman and M. Walter; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Adams, and Miss Lowry; from Singapore, Miss C. Boyle, Messrs. H. Horsey, E. Yeates, W. Genewz, D. Matsui and J. Morinaga.

Per *Palawan*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hains and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Lane, Midshipmen H. M. Coombs, F. R. Barry, A. V. Durrell, M. P. Spence, G. F. Hole, and A. D. Smith, Naval-Cadets S. P. Grove, W. B. Pirie, R. J. R. Scott, R. E. Lewes, R. K. C. Pope, F. O'Reiley, C. H. Knox-Little, G. H. Thomson, E. M. Gibbings, C. R. E. Perryman, T. B. Notley, M. Goolden, W. Pennefather and R. B. Lane, Dr. Mansel, Surg. F. T. O'Keefe, Lieuts. D. S. and A. P. Weston and R. H. Keate, Messrs. T. Hills, A. Perkins, G. Setland, W. Harvey, W. T. Cooper, W. Collins, A. Wakeley, E. Wall, A. Parson, J. House, and Mason; from Malta, Mrs. W. Edwards and child, and Miss Sin May; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. Hutchison; from Malta, Mrs. Reid and 4 children, and Miss Owen; for Yokohama, from London, Miss Johnstone.

DEPARTED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Kemball, Miss Hammon, Messrs. A. F. Wenyon and Maynard; for Fremantle, Mr. and Mrs. Wasson; for Colombo, Miss Franck, and Mr. E. F. Hopkinson; for Bombay, Messrs. K. F. T. Talati and Shirazee; for Brindisi, Mr. Foye and Mrs. Foye Shortledge; for Marseilles, Mrs. Gribbon; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Wenyon, Miss Liff, Messrs. D. Macdonald, G. J. W. King, and Witt.

Per *Roon*, from Hongkong, for Bremen, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Abbott, Mrs. Aldridge and child, Dr. and Mrs. Bach, Mrs. Nanens and children, Mrs. E. Beauchamp, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. J. Blount and children, Rev. and Mrs. J. A. B. Cook, Mrs. Danielsen, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Danielsen, Mr. and Mrs. Duff, Mr. and Mrs. Albert and child, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Friede and child, Inspector and Mrs. Gidley, Mrs. Happe, Mrs. S. Houghton, Mrs. M. Huck and children, Mrs. A. Crawford Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Landis and children, Mr. and Mrs. C. Leege, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Moir, Dr. and Mrs. Naumann, Mrs. Olsen, Mrs. Ochidarika, Mr. and Mrs. Paterson and children, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Pierson, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Pope, Rev. and Mrs. G. L. Pullan and children, Mrs. Purdy and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. D. Rickerby and children, Mrs. and Miss van Rossum, Mrs. Hauptman Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Slade and children, Miss Slade, Rev. G. F. Slade, Mr. and Mrs. Travers, Capt. and Mrs. ter Voor, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wacker and children, Mrs. Ethina Walshe and children, Mr. and Mrs. Ward and child, Mr. and Mrs. Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wegelin, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Worley, Capt. and Mrs. Wiese, Mrs. and two Misses Wolfe, Mr. and Mrs. Woods and children, Baron von Heeckeren v. Welien, Sub-Lieut. Lang, Revs. Laughton and H. H. Tilbe, Drs. Mehlert and Posthuma, Misses Hawksley, E. M. Hunt, Daisy Liff, Helene Junker, Lepper, Montford, V. Prost, M. Stewart, S. Taira, Maud Tripp, Warre, and White, Messrs. Ager, Spirito Andreis, Howard Ayres, C. Bell, B. M. Bergmann, J. Berkelbach v. d. Sprengel, Blakely, Clarence Blakely, Hugo Carl, Carter, T. A. Crellin, F. R. Daniel, S. Donnenberg, H. le Fann, P. R. Harts, J. R. Holman, A. Hauschild, M. Inouye, M. Kitzmantl, A. Korff, F. T. Leak, D. J. Launder, A. G. Lepper, Pascal Lohest, Charles Lund, V. P. Mahomed, A. Mesritz, K. Matsuoka, John A. Martini, Moxon, J. Otsake, A. Oyama, E. A. Pugh, Alfred Pustau, E. A. Ram, J. H. Rolker, P. Sayami, H. M. Simons, Charles R. Stewart, Paul Sudhans, W. C. Suter, Tongue, H. Tudor, Wm. Wilson, Samuel Wilson, Wittkowsky, and K. Yoshida.

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